RAW:	GHOST0204/?
TRANSLATOR:	AKI
CLEANER:	HEE
TYPESET:	HEE
PROOF:	HEE, KORYNA

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#syndicate@irchighway.net

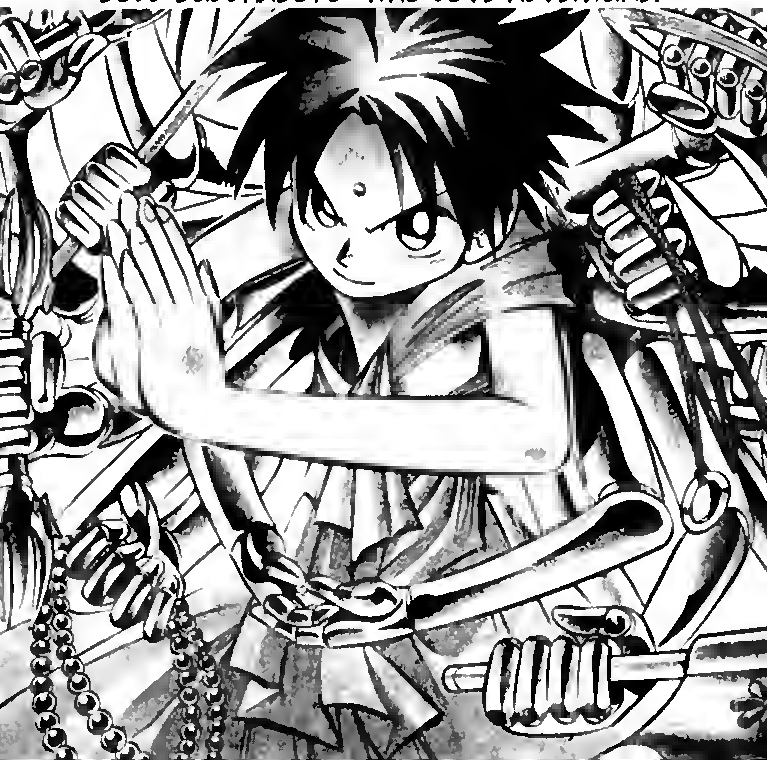
yours truly - lakay

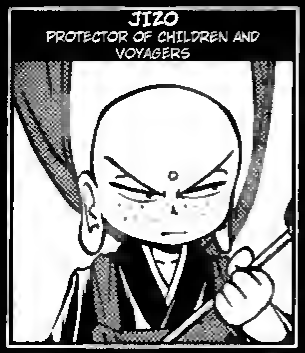
BUTSU
ZONE
3
Hiroyuki
TAKEI

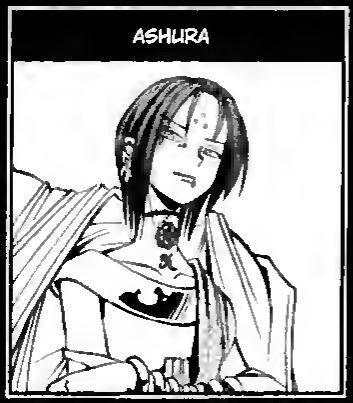
VOLUME 3 : ULTIMATE COMBAT

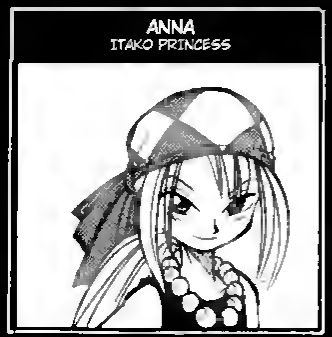
BUTSU ZONE

HIROYUKI TAKEI PRESENTS :
"BOLD BUDDHABOYS" WHO LOVE ADVENTURE!







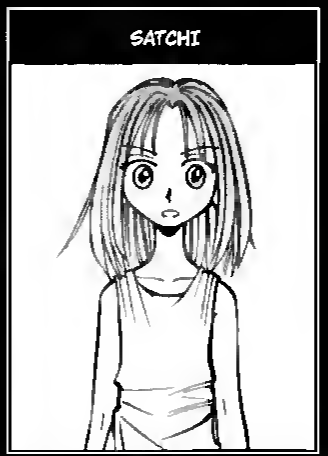


SUMMARY

WHEN A BUDDHA DESIRES TO COME TO EARTH, HE HAS TO USE HIS EFFIGY, THAT IS TO SAY THE BODY OF A "STATUE". THIS PROCEDURE IS CALLED "BUTSU ZONE" (LITERALLY "THE BUDDHIC SPACE"). SENNJU, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BODHISATTVA KANNON, CAME DOWN TO EARTH IN ORDER TO FULLFILL A MISSION ENTRUSTED TO HIM BY THE PRESENT KING OF THE BUDDHAS, THE GREAT DAI-NICHI-NYORAI. HE HAS TO ESCORT A GIRL NAMED SATCHI TO INDIA. SHE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF BODHISATTVA MIROKOU AND HER TASK IS TO GAIN "AWAKENING" IN INDIA. CURRENTLY EARTH IS INDEED DROWN IN A WORLD OF DESIRES AND ONLY BODHISATTVA MIROKOU CAN SAVE IT. UNFORTUNATELY, EVIL ENTITIES INVOKED BY THE DEMON MARA AND WHICH FEED FROM NEGATIVE DESIRES OF HUMANS WILL DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT OUR TWO HEROES FROM REACHING THEIR FINAL DESTINATION. EVEN ASHURA, WHO WAS ONCE ON THE BUDDHA'S SIDE, HAS BETRAYED AND ATTACKED HIS FORMER COMPANIONS. AFTER THE HARD FIGHT AND IN SPITE OF JIZO'S HELP , THE 1 000 ARMS ARMOR SHATTERED . SENNJU AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR IN ORDER TO MEET A YOUNG PRIESTESS CAPABLE OF INVOKING THE GHOST OF A MASTER CARVER. THE SPIRIT WILL THEN BE ABLE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGED ARMOR. ON THEIR WAY THEY CROSS PATH WITH BATO, ANOTHER BODHISATTVA, WHO STATES THAT FROM NOW ON IT'S INCUMBENT ON HIM TO LEAD SATCHI TO INDIA. HE ALSO ANNOUNCES THAT SENNJU IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THROUGH HIS MISSION. OUR HERO CHALLENGES BATO AND OFFERS THE WINNER TO BRING THE GIRL TO INDIA. THEY'LL MEET IN THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR. THE EVENING OF THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF THOSE ILLUSTRIOUS MOUNTAINS , THEY ENCOUNTER ANNA, ITAKO PRIESTESS, THE ONE THEY CAME TO SEE

******

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS



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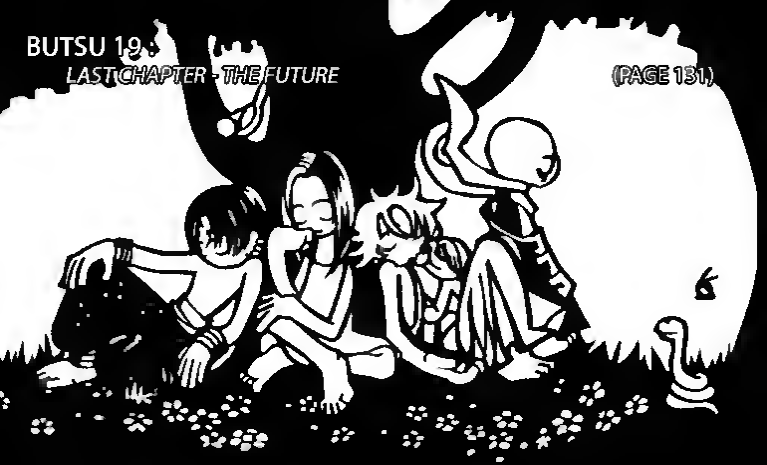
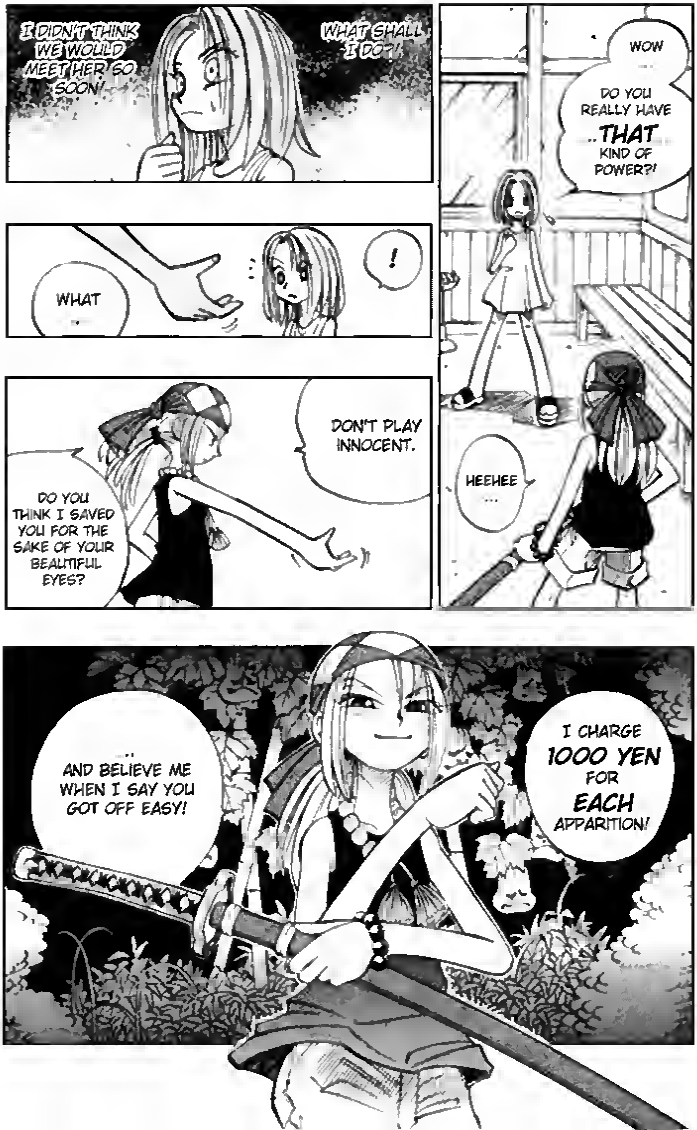


... A FULL STORY :
ANNA, ITAKO PRIESTESS (PAGE 1S3)

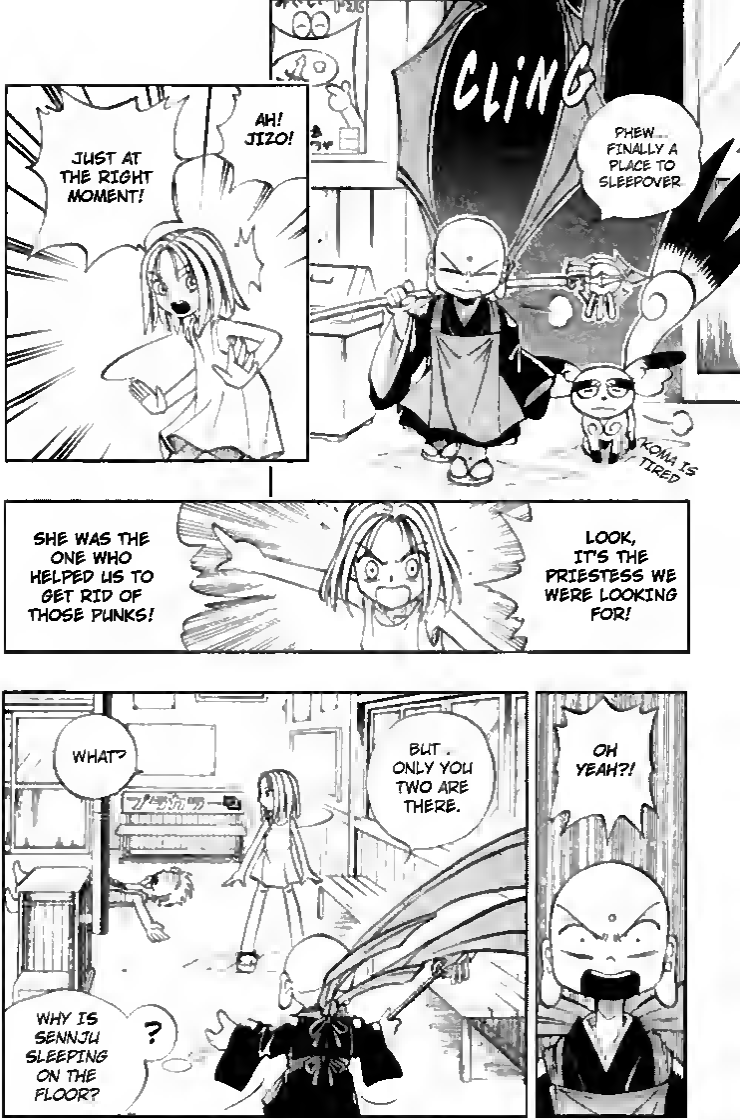
BUTSU 13
ANNA, THE PRIESTESS WHO CALLS UPON A SPIRIT

ARE YOU ... THE ITAKO PRIESSTESS ?!
YES. DID YOU SEE THAT SPIRIT?
LET ME INTRODUCE "HARUSAME". IT'S A CURSED SWORD I LET THE SPIRIT OF THE SWORD'S FORMER OWNER TAKE POSSESSION OF MY BODY FOR A FEW MINUTES
I HAVE THE ABILITY TO IMPERSONATE ANY ROAMING SPIRIT.
SUCH IS THE POWER OF AN ITAKO PRIESTESS !!

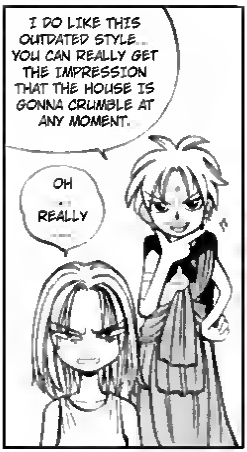

I DIDN'T THINK WE WOULD MEET HER SO SOON!
WHAT SHALL I DO?!
WHAT
..
!
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT.
DO YOU THINK I SAVED YOU FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL EYES?
WOW
...
DO YOU REALLY HAVE ..THAT KIND OF POWER?!
HEEHEE
...
..
AND BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY YOU GOT OFF EASY!
I CHARGE 1000 YEN FOR EACH APPARITION!

BUTSU 13 -
ANNA, THE PRIESTESS WHO CALLS UPON A SPIRIT

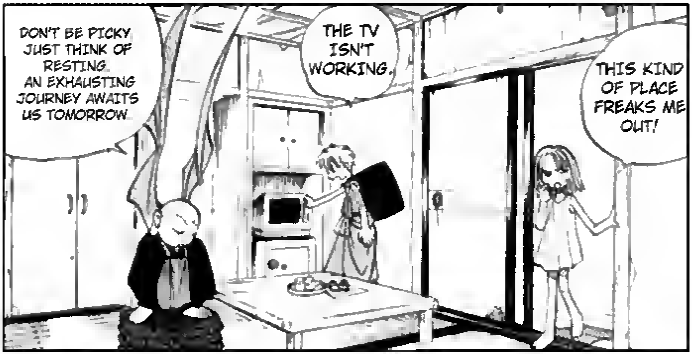
BRIDGE WITH DRUMS, IN THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR

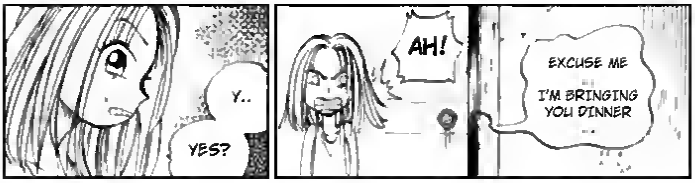

CLING
PHEW... FINALLY A PLACE TO SLEEPOVER
KOMA IS TIRED
AH! JIZO!
JUST AT THE RIGHT MOMENT!
LOOK, IT'S THE PRIESTESS WE WERE LOOKING FOR!
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO HELPED US TO GET RID OF THOSE PUNKS!
OH YEAH?!
BUT . ONLY YOU TWO ARE THERE.
WHAT?
WHY IS SENNJU SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR?
?

AHAH!
ARE YOU SURE ALL THIS WASN'T A DREAM?!
IT WAS YOU WHO WAS SOUND ASLEEP !!
PAF
BAKA !!
えさまえ塗り者店
BUT I TOLD YOU ALREADY ... IT'S TRUE!
SHE EVEN TOOK 1000 YEN FROM ME!
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT YOU REALLY SAW HER.
HMM...
VHVHHH~
AFTER ALL WE ARE ON THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR.
MATIKO
OK ... WE'VE MADE IT ...
AND SHE CAN GO WHEREVER SHE WANTS TO, RIGHT?

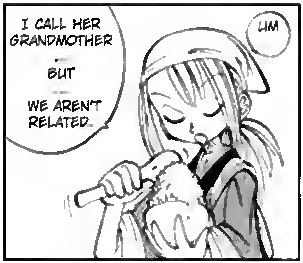

I DO LIKE THIS OUTDATED STYLE... YOU CAN REALLY GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOUSE IS GONNA CRUMBLE AT ANY MOMENT.
OH... REALLY...

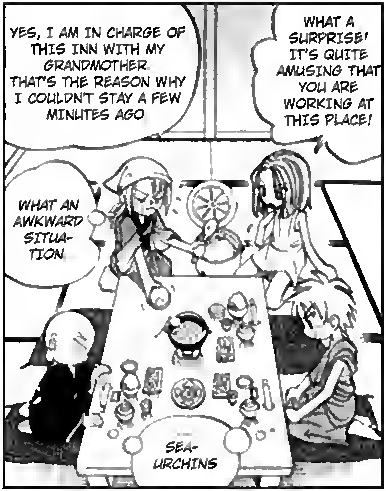
HERE IS THE PLACE WHERE WE ARE GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
IN THIS RUIN?!
女井旅館

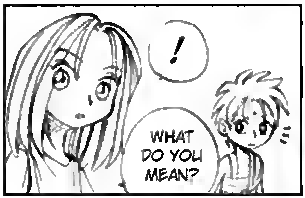

DON'T BE PICKY. JUST THINK OF RESTING. AN EXHAUSTING JOURNEY AWAITS US TOMORROW.
THE TV ISN'T WORKING.
THIS KIND OF PLACE FREAKS ME OUT!

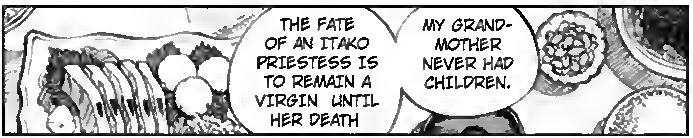

Y..
YES?
AH!
EXCUSE ME
I'M BRINGING YOU DINNER

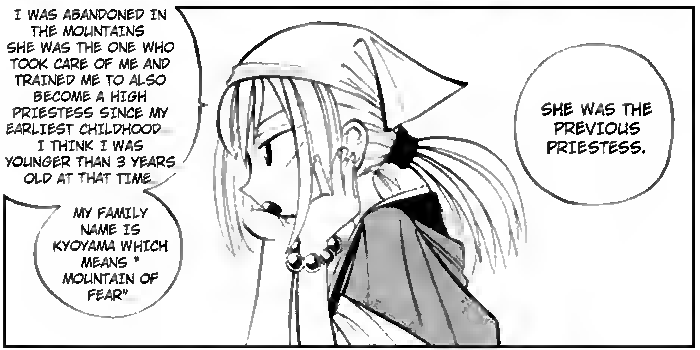
I AM SURE THAT YOU'RE ALL EXHAUSTED!
HIHI
WELCOME EVERYONE!
GOOD EVENING ...
EM ...?!
EM ...
IT WAS YOU JUST NOW?
BUT ... !!!

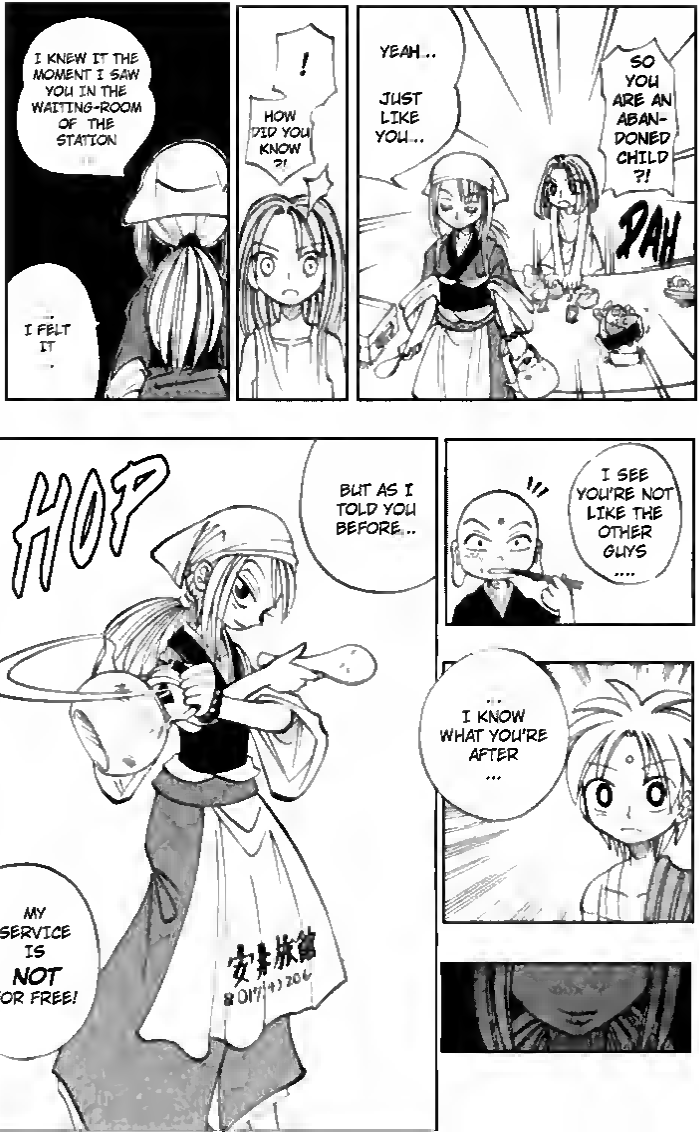

I CALL HER GRANDMOTHER
BUT
WE AREN'T RELATED.
UM


YES, I AM IN CHARGE OF THIS INN WITH MY GRANDMOTHER. THAT'S THE REASON WHY I COULDN'T STAY A FEW MINUTES AGO.
WHAT A SURPRISE! IT'S QUITE AMUSING THAT YOU ARE WORKING AT THIS PLACE!
WHAT AN AWKWARD SITUATION.
SEA-URCHINS


!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

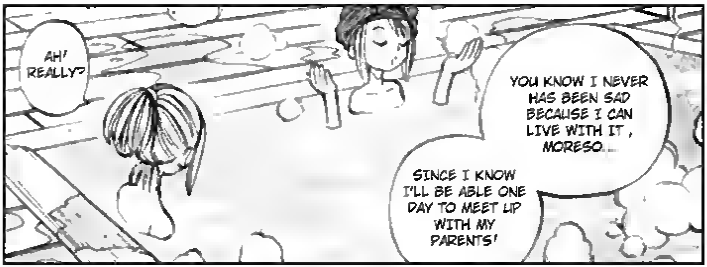

THE FATE OF AN ITAKO PRIESTESS IS TO REMAIN A VIRGIN UNTIL HER DEATH
MY GRAND-MOTHER NEVER HAD CHILDREN.

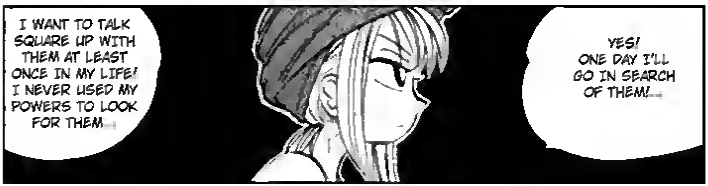

I WAS ABANDONED IN THE MOUNTAINS. SHE WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK CARE OF ME AND TRAINED ME TO ALSO BECOME A HIGH PRIESTESS SINCE MY EARLIEST CHILDHOOD. I THINK I WAS YOUNGER THAN 3 YEARS OLD AT THAT TIME.
MY FAMILY NAME IS KYOYAMA WHICH MEANS " MOUNTAIN OF FEAR"
SHE WAS THE PREVIOUS PRIESTESS.

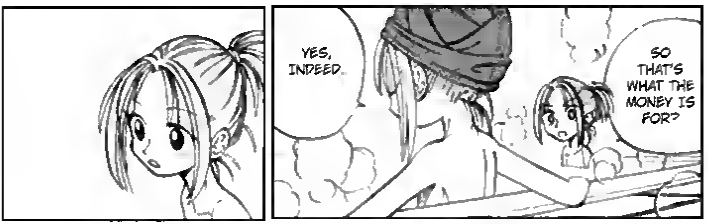

I KNEW IT THE MOMENT I SAW YOU IN THE WAITING-ROOM OF THE STATION
...
I FELT IT
.
!
HOW DID YOU KNOW ?!
YEAH..
JUST LIKE YOU..
SO YOU ARE AN ABAN-DONED CHILD ?!
PAH
HOP
BUT AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE..
MY SERVICE IS NOT FOR FREE!
I SEE YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER GUYS ....
..
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER
...

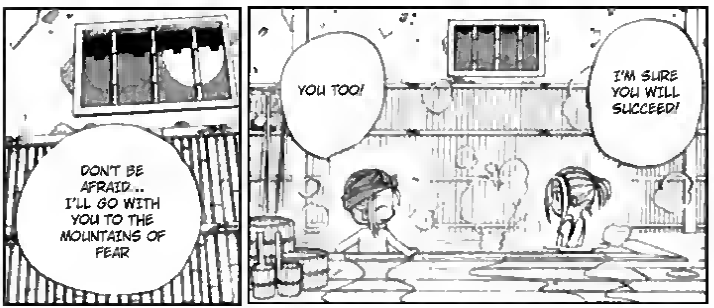
EACH ITAKO PRIESTESS TAKES AN OATH NEVER TO CHARGE MONEY FOR HER SERVICE
AH ...
WERE YOU REALLY GOING TO EXTORT MONEY FROM THOSE BODHISATTVAS WHO CAME TO FIGHT FOR PEACE?!
BANK
WELL, MY DAUGHTER !!
OW, YEOW, OWW !!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
ER ..
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BREAK YOUR OATH OF ITAKO PRIESTESS AT THE EXPENSE OF SUCH RENOWNED PEOPLE?!
BARA
TA--DAH!!
GRAND-MOTHER !!
YOU ALWAYS DO SILLY THINGS AS SOON AS I TURN MY BACK ON YOU! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?!
PFF.
WOOO! SHE SCARED ME TO DEATH!
OK! OK! I 'M SORRY!! I APOLO-GIZE !!
HEU HAI HAH H'IHOHENHE !!
(DON'T PLAY INNOCENT!)
GIAE GIAE GIAE GIAE
HOOOO--
.....

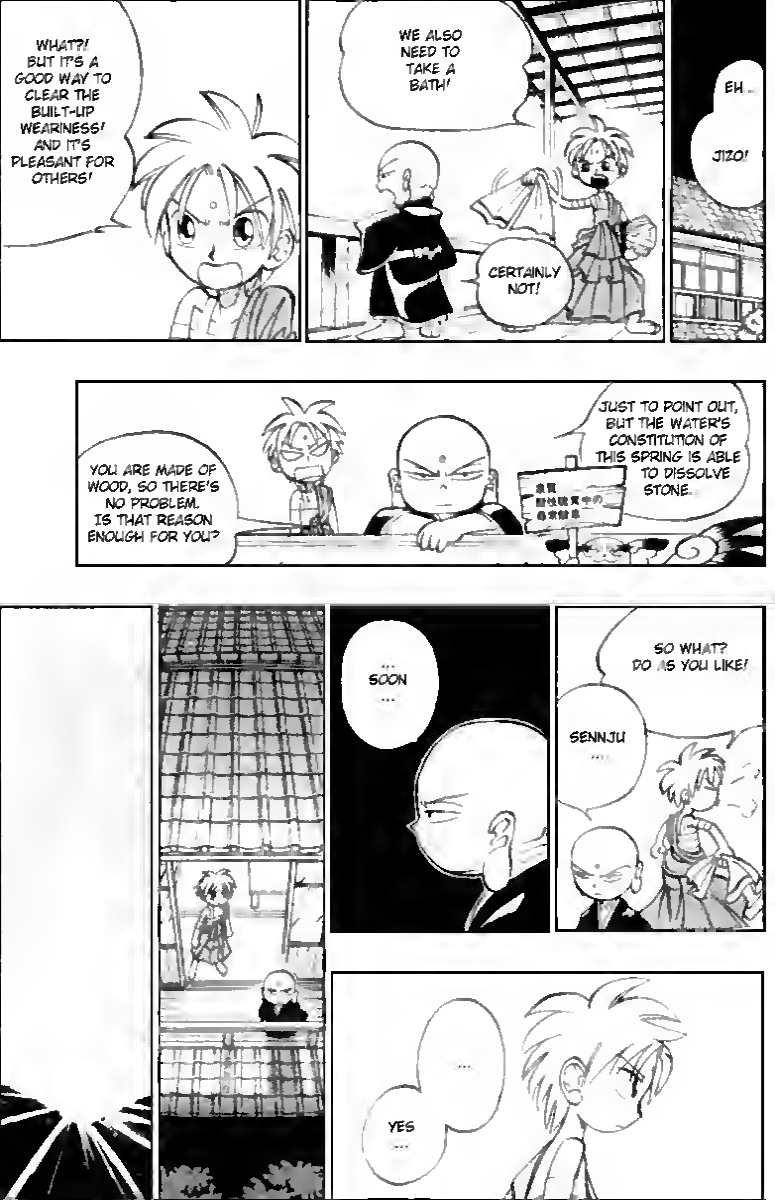
ARE YOU GOING TO BE AL-RIGHT ?
MY GRAND-MOTHER IS PERHAPS UTTERLY INSANE, BUT SHE STILL STRIKES HARD!
I STILL HAVE A HEADACHE
SPLAF
YEAH? DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?
AH ...
UH ...
SO WHAT? .. LIFE IS MADE OF MANY UPS AND DOWNS!
ARE YOU SAD? I COULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT WITH ANYONE... BECAUSE I NEVER HAD MANY FRIENDS, AND..
YES .. ARE YOU SAD?
TELL ME... YOU ALSO NEVER HAD A FATHER OR A MOTHER
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
YOU ARE ASKING ME WHAT MY FEELINGS ARE?

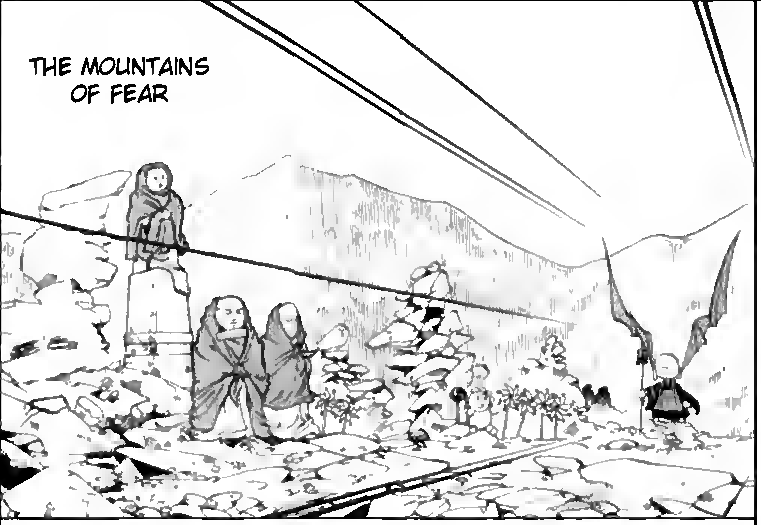

AH! REALLY?
YOU KNOW I NEVER HAS BEEN SAD BECAUSE I CAN LIVE WITH IT, MORESO...
SINCE I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE ONE DAY TO MEET UP WITH MY PARENTS!

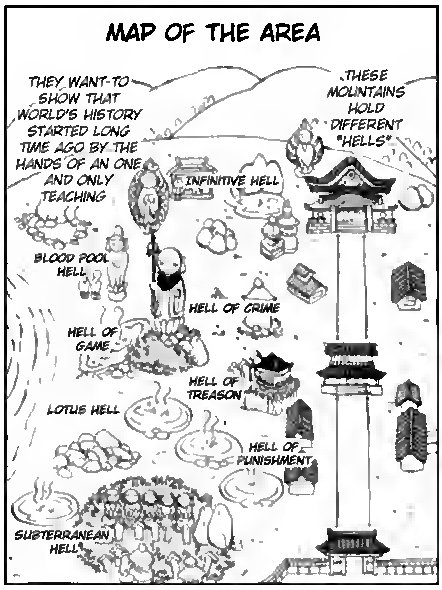

I WANT TO TALK SQUARE UP WITH THEM AT LEAST ONCE IN MY LIFE! I NEVER USED MY POWERS TO LOOK FOR THEM...
YES! ONE DAY I'LL GO IN SEARCH OF THEM!...

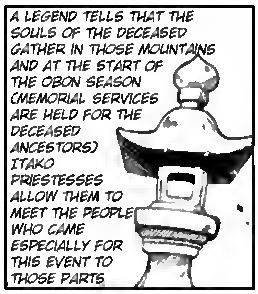

YES, INDEED...
SO THAT'S WHAT THE MONEY IS FOR?


DON'T BE AFRAID... I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR
YOU TOO!
I'M SURE YOU WILL SUCCEED!

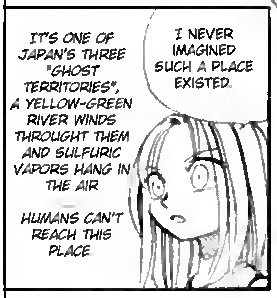

WHAT?! BUT IT'S A GOOD WAY TO CLEAR THE BUILT-UP WEARINESS! AND IT'S PLEASANT FOR OTHERS!
WE ALSO NEED TO TAKE A BATH!
CERTAINLY NOT!
EH...
JIZO!
YOU ARE MADE OF WOOD, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM. IS THAT REASON ENOUGH FOR YOU?
JUST TO POINT OUT, BUT THE WATER'S CONSTITUTION OF THIS SPRING IS ABLE TO DISSOLVE STONE.
...SOON...
SO WHAT? DO AS YOU LIKE!
SENNJU....
...
YES...

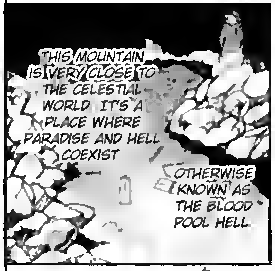

THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR


MAP OF THE AREA
THEY WANT TO SHOW THAT WORLD'S HISTORY STARTED LONG TIME AGO BY THE HANDS OF AN ONE AND ONLY TEACHING
THESE MOUNTAINS HOLD DIFFERENT "HELLS"
INFINITIVE HELL
BLOOD POOL HELL
HELL OF CRIME
HELL OF GAME
HELL OF TREASON
LOTUS HELL
HELL OF PUNISHMENT
SUBTERRANEAN HELL


A LEGEND TELLS THAT THE SOULS OF THE DECEASED GATHER IN THOSE MOUNTAINS AND AT THE START OF THE OBON SEASON (MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE HELD FOR THE DECEASED ANCESTORS) ITAKO PRIESTESSES ALLOW THEM TO MEET THE PEOPLE WHO CAME ESPECIALLY FOR THIS EVENT TO THOSE PARTS

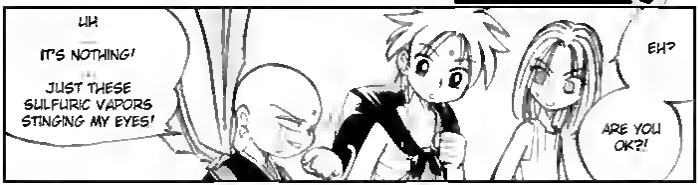
IT'S A PLACE FOR CONTEMPLATION
THESE MOUNTAINS KEEP HIDDEN MANY SECRETS

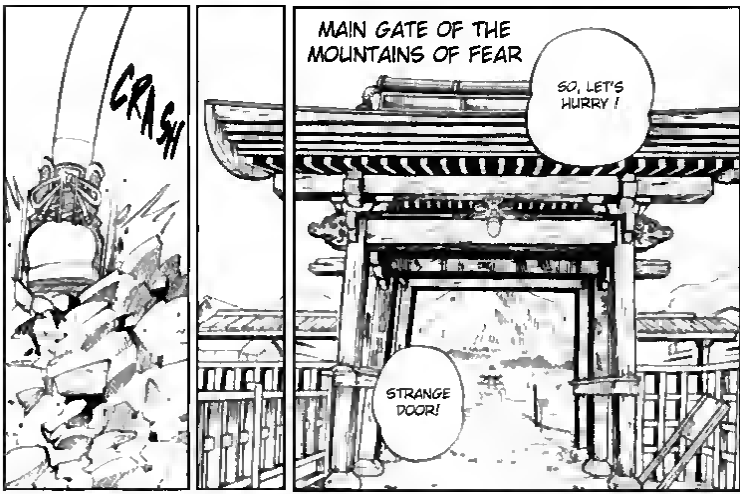

IT'S ONE OF JAPAN'S THREE "GHOST TERRITORIES", A YELLOW-GREEN RIVER WINDS THROUGHT THEM AND SULFURIC VAPORS HANG IN THE AIR
HUMANS CAN'T REACH THIS PLACE
I NEVER IMAGINED SUCH A PLACE EXISTED


THIS MOUNTAIN IS VERY CLOSE TO THE CELESTIAL WORLD. IT'S A PLACE WHERE PARADISE AND HELL COEXIST
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BLOOD POOL HELL

SO THESE ARE THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR!

THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE ALSO THE ORIGINAL HEARTH OF JIZO


UH
IT'S NOTHING!
JUST THESE SULFURIC VAPORS STINGING MY EYES!
EH?
ARE YOU OK?!


CRASH
MAIN GATE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR
SO, LET'S HURRY !
STRANGE DOOR!

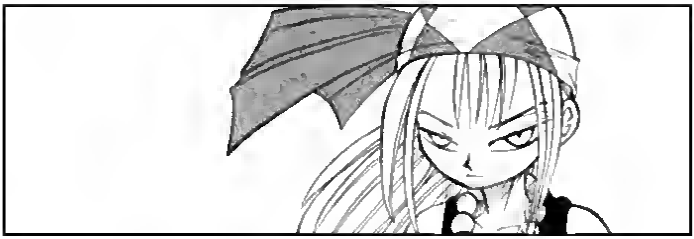
VVHHH
FHIP
FHIP
FHIP

WE ARE ABOUT TO START ...
THE CEREMONY OF "BODY POSSESSION".

I 'LL FINALLY MEET THE ONE WHO SCULPED THE STATUE I INHABIT.
WHAT MENTAL POWER!
VHHH
.....
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF A MAN HE WAS...
TOH
BRING ME THE BASKET YOU ARE WEARING ON YOUR BACK.
WE ARE GOING TO SEE FIRS HAND WHO HAS BEEN THE OWNER.

FOUND HIM.
SH
IT WAS DURING THE EDO PERIOD HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AND EXECUTED.
1824
THE YEAR OF HIS DEATH.
DAAAH!
!!
...HE'S COMING !!
BE SILENT !
AH!
...SOME-ONE IS COMING !
!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!

!!
ZOAH
UH
SHE'S ALREADY POSSESSED BY SOMEONE ELSE.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, ANNA?
WHO IS THERE?
SPEAK UP!



I'M THE LAST DESCENDANT OF THE GREATEST FAMILY OF RELIGIOUS STATUE CARVERS OF THE KAMAKURA PERIOD!
MY NAME IS JUNKEI ...
KAMAKURA PERIOD: 1185 - 1333

Hello I'm Anna the Itako one. We already reached volume 3 of Butsu Zone and we are going to settle everything here coz I spent too many sleepless nights. So this is a column for the answers to all your questions! It will consist of seven parts and I'll have to find space for them in that last volume of Butsu Zone... It certainly is going to be no picnic! Since we must be going... let's go! Hiroyuki Take! is about to speak, the author of the series in order to solve and answer all of your problems and questions. Our friends will help out. Anyone wants to join me? And I promise that you'll have got another thing coming! Alright, er... What was I saying just now? "In volume 3...scatterbrain!" Eh, Sennju what are you doing here!? "It's not my fault, Anna! Put the blame on Take! He left too many problems to be cleared up as unfinished "What?! You also get on with it, Jizo? Since I'm here and still alive I might as well set to work! "Yes! We received many letters, so we have no time to waste!"

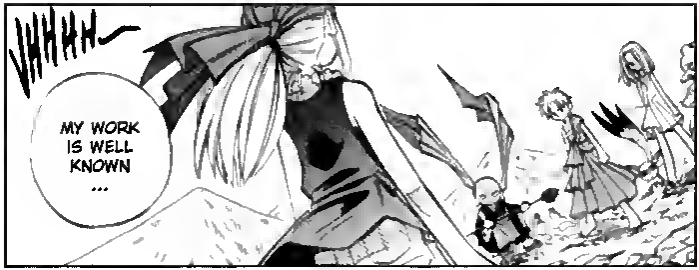
Q: I still haven't got the final version of the "Butsu Zone bulletin"! What are you waiting for? PS. – I'm very angry!

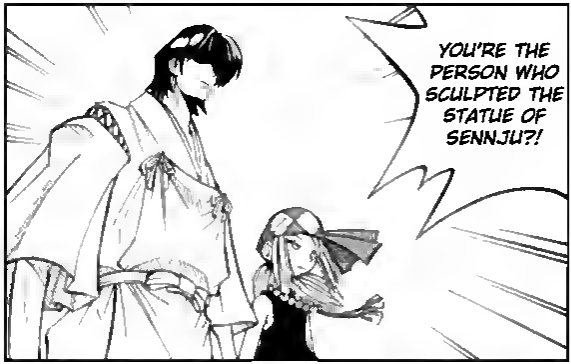
R: Well, that's quite a frank question to start with. That's the way it was on the beginning... at the time mails from my fans were rarely seen... I put in place a system of thanks. For each received letter I sent out a "guiding newsletter." But when the second edition was released you can't imagine the amount of letters I got. Thus I was unable to reply to all those mails. We stayed at the stage of the first edition in order to not make people jealous...
Jizo: "What an irresponsible man!"

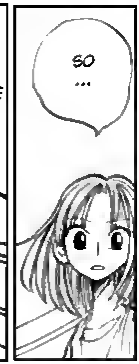
R: I'm sorry! For your reassurance, I could tell you that there exists 2 different versions of the "guiding newsletters" in this world and those are sold somewhere during the summer... under the name of "Tomoshibi Great" What I'm gonna tell you , might seem a little bit crude to you but try to ask your Buddha pals to give your investigations a push in the right direction. There are currently 100 photocopied copies of the "guiding newspaper 2" copiable at will (no payoff for me).
Sennju: "Let's start looking first around us!"

Q: "Come and join us in the launching commitee of One Piece!"... This kind of proposition is alright by me but I would like to know how to join! Coz... I admit to be absolutely keen on taking part in the project!

R: Ah yes, you are talking about this group of guys people call "herd of perverts" I think that the membership is free but it's better if you get informations from Mr. Matsui, its president. Last time a mangaka about fencing joint our club so it really should be open to anyone! Anyway, I'm sure they don't organize masked balls. Ah yes, and then it has also nothing to do with a manga about pirates which start to get very famous and bears the same name (One Piece). Member wannabees just sent me a little postcard with the following writing," I'm a new member"... From then on you'll be officially regarded as a member!

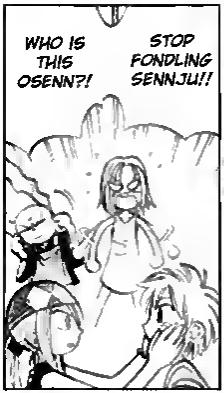

JAHHHH—
MY WORK IS WELL KNOWN ...


YOU'RE THE PERSON WHO SCULPTED THE STATUE OF SENNJU?!


SO ...

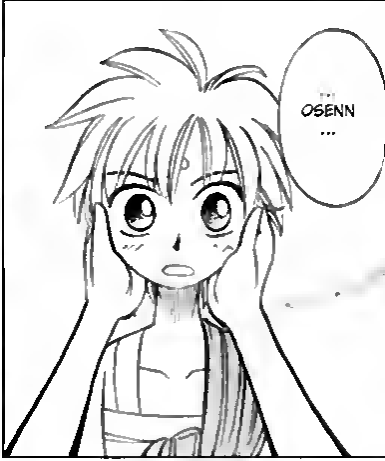
?
SHH!

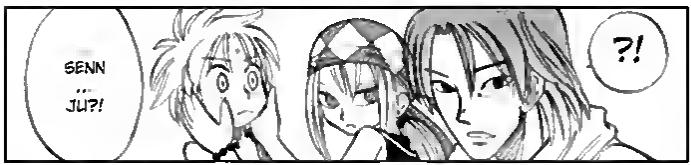
AND YOU.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ...?
HOW DID I ARRIVE HERE...? HOW DID I COME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD? I'M DEAD... IT'S BEEN SO LONG.

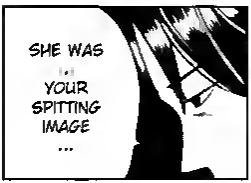

WHO IS THIS OSENN?!
STOP FONDLING SENNJU!!

?!
EM?

EH, YOU!


...
OSENN
...


SENN
...
JU?!
?!


SHE WAS
...
YOUR SPITTING IMAGE
...

NEVER MIND
...
BUT WHO IS THIS "OSENN"?
EXCUSE ME
...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BEEN TOO FAMILIAR

AH
..
I SEE
.

OSENN WAS MY LITTLE SISTER
...

BUTSU
14
-
JUNKEI
THE
CARVER
BY
HIRO
-YUKI
TAKEI

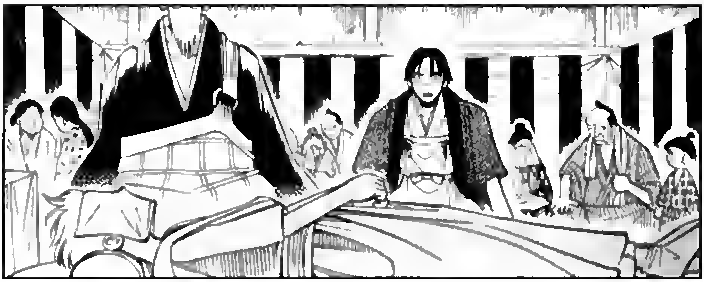
- A TOWN DURING THE EDO PERIOD -
EH, BIG BROTHER!!
AH, HELLO! PLEASE ENTER!
I HAVE JUST FINISHED THE STATUETTE THAT WAS ORDERED.
THE TEMPLE'S SUPERIOR HAS ARRIVED!
OH OH PEACE AND HARMONY

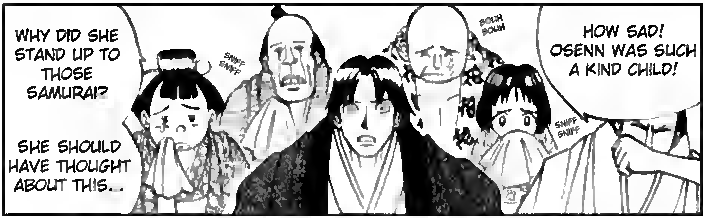
IT'S QUITE A NICE ACCOMPLISH-MENT...
HOO...
SOME TEA?
EM...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THIS STATU-ETTE IS PERFECT!
A
"HEART"
IS LACKING.
BUT THERE IS NOTHING ELSE...
HE HE... AND YOU'RE SURPRISED FOR THIS KIND OF WORK I'M THE BEST!
IF YOUR BUDDHA STATUES HAVEN'T GOT A "HEART"...
...THEN THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE ANYONE.

I'M NOT ANY CARVER! I'M THE HEIR OF THE MOST RENOWNED CARVER FAMILY OF RELIGIOUS STATUETTES! OUR WORKSHOP IS WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED SINCE THE KAMAKURA PERIOD! ... HOW DO YOU DARE CRITICIZE MY WORK?!
GEE... WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
PAH
ON AN ARTISTIC VIEW, I CAN'T CRITICIZE YOUR WORK... BUT I KNOW THAT THE ONE WHO SCULPTED THIS STATUETTE DIDN'T PUT ALL HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO IT
EH??
...IF MY WORK IS SO BAD, WHY DO ALL THESE PEOPLE FIGHT OVER ME THEN??
YOU ARE TALKING NONSENSE!!
GRR
BUT...
IT'S PERHAPS BECAUSE OF MY GRAVERS
OSENN! HURRY AND BUY ME A NEW GRAVER! MINE IS TOO OLD!

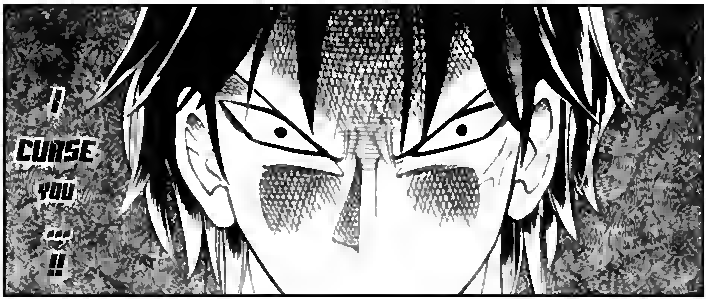
"YOUR BUDDHA STATU-ETTES HAVE NO HEART..."
THOSE ARE THE SAME WORDS FATHER TOLD MY BIG BROTHER, LONG TIME AGO...
SORRY, I WASN'T LOOKING WHERE...
!
BOM
OUCH!
HOW DARE YOU?
AN ORDINARY BEGGAR. IT'S LITTERLY...
SAMURAI
NO... I... I...
CLAC

ZAK
...
UNFORGIVABLE
!!!
Glink
(LL) (LL)
BLOM



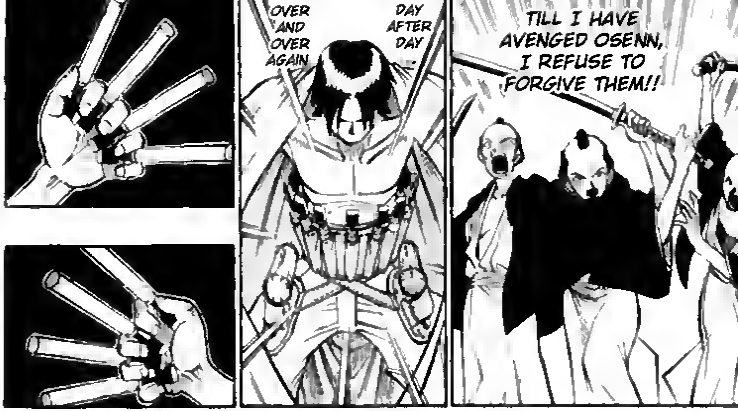

WHY DID SHE STAND UP TO THOSE SAMURAI?
SHE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS...
SNIFF SNIFF
BOUN BOUN
HOW SAD! OSENN WAS SUCH A KIND CHILD!
SNIFF SNIFF

CHI

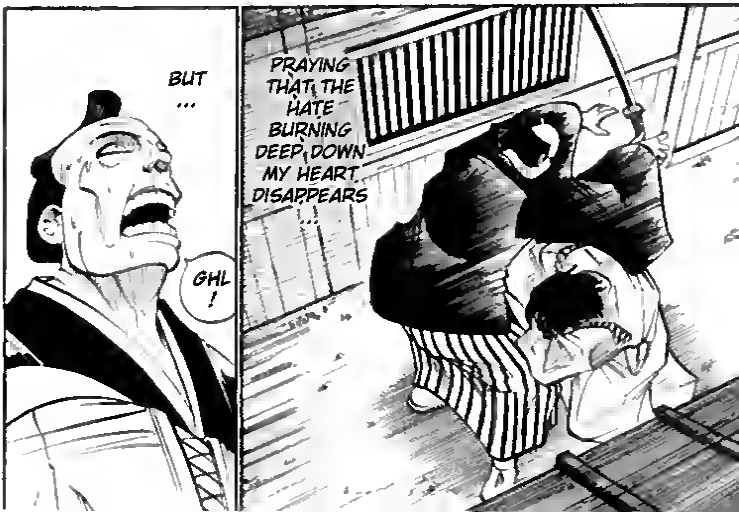

I
CURSE
YOU
!!!

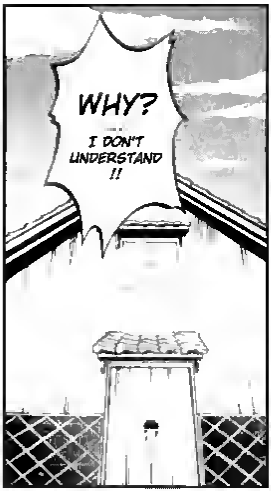
BSHH
HEHE! I'LL JUST RELEASE PISS HERE
HA HA. HIC I 'M TOO DRUNK'
HE HE! HIP! HOOPLA!
EH ..?
WH . WHO ARE YOU?
JUNKEI . . MASTER CARVER . . HEIR TO THE MOST RENOWNED FAMILY OF CARVERS OF RELIGIOUS STATUES
BAH!

I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT EVERYBODY DESERVES TO BE SAVED LIKE THE TEACHING OF BUDDHA SAYS!
STOP !!
!
TAC
I WILL BE THEIR EXECUTIONER!
NO!
N...
I'M GOING TO KILL ALL THE SAMURAI OF THIS WORLD!!


OVER AND OVER AGAIN
DAY AFTER DAY
TILL I HAVE AVENGED OSENN, I REFUSE TO FORGIVE THEM!!

...WILL LET THEIR BLOOD FLOW!!
MY TOOLS...


BUT ...
GHL !
PRAYING THAT THE HATE BURNING DEEP DOWN MY HEART DISAPPEARS ...


WHY?
...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND !!

...
FOR EACH GRAVER BLOW, THE FIRE OF HATE
...
FAR FROM FALTERING ONLY FIERCELY INCREASES!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!

WHY DOES MY SUFFERING NOT DISAPPEAR ?!
I TOOK MY VENGEANCE UNTIL I FELT DISGUSTED WITH THE WHOLE THING!
BUT THEN WHY AM I STILL FULL OF HATE?
HOW CAN I FREE MYSELF FROM THIS BURDEN WHICH WEIGHTS ME DOWN EACH DAY A BIT MORE?!!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND?
EH ?! WHO IS IT?!
THE WORKSHOP IS CLOSED! GO AWAY!

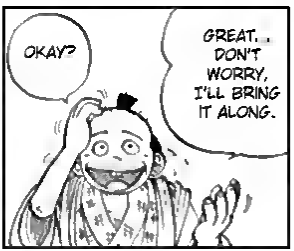
YOU ACTED WAY TOO RECKLESS, JUNKEI... DO YOU THINK THAT A MAN CARVING BUDDHAS HAS THE RIGHT TO KILL SO MANY PEOPLE?
...YOU?
AS YOU CAN SEE NOW...
NONE OF MY DEEDS COULD APPEASE MY HATE.
TO CALM YOUR HEART, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR HATE INTO BENEVOLENCE...
...INTO "BENEVOLENCE"?!

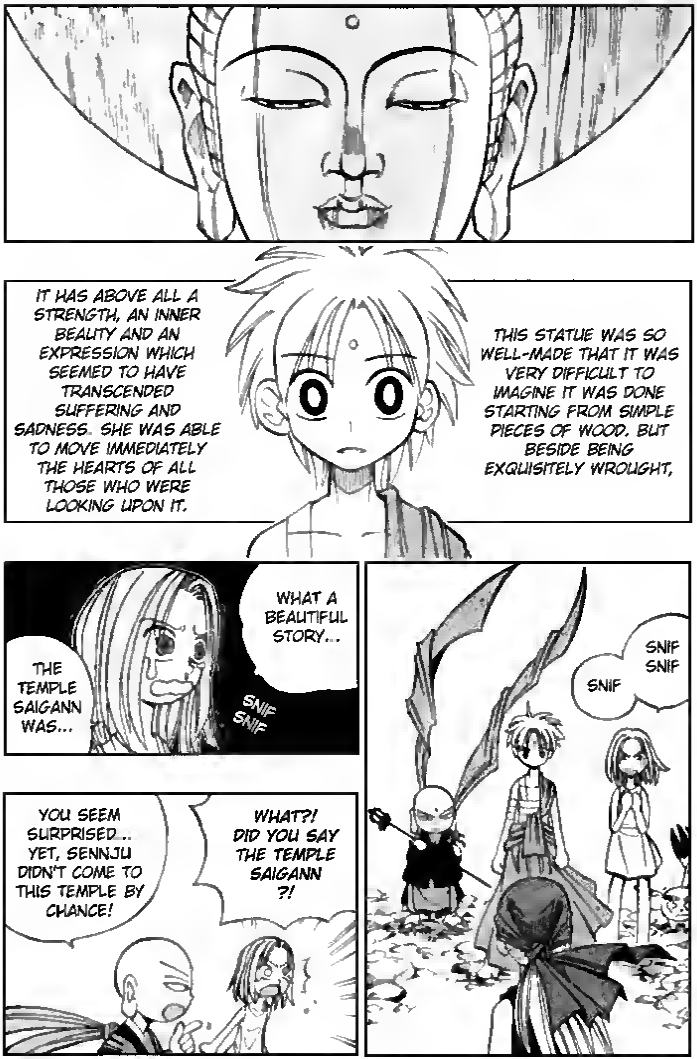
AND CONDEMNED TO BE DECAPITATED.
3 DAYS LATER I WAS ARRESTED ..
OSENN...
I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN SO PROUD OF MY TECHNIQUE THAT I LEFT ASIDE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
ERR...
YOUR HOLINESS!
A FEW DAYS LATER
IN OTHER WORDS CARVE STATUES ABLE TO SAVE THE HEART OF ALL THE PEOPLE
THE ONE THING THAT SHOULD MOTIVATE EVERY CARVER OF RELIGIOUS STATUES,

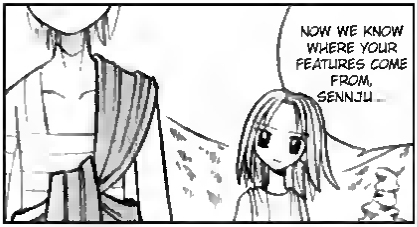
SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE CELL OF THE DECAPITATED MAN!
I BEG YOU!
LISTEN, YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW ME RIGHT AWAY!
WELL, JAILOR, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME ?
UNBELIEV-ABLE!
BUT
ANYWAY, I CAN'T LEAVE IT HERE, I'LL HAVE TO DESTROY IT UNLESS YOU TAKE IT WITH YOU.
HE DID IT BY USING THIS PILLAR IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS CELL. HE WAS A BIT CRAZY, WASN'T HE?
YES, I KNOW... JUST IMAGINE HOW ASTONISHED I WAS WHEN I FOUND THIS .
IT'S AN HONOUR TO TAKE IT TO THE TEMPLE
YES...YES, OF COURSE, I'LL TAKE IT

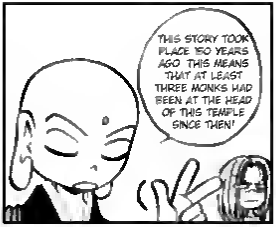
... THIS MAGNIFICENT STATUE OF SENNJU KANNON.
IT WILL BE AN HONOUR FOR ME TO WELCOME IT IN MY HOME ...

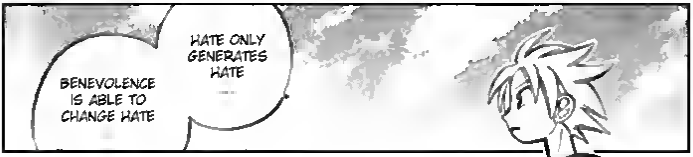
TO THE TEMPLE SAIGANN?
HOHO ...
... ON THE TOP?

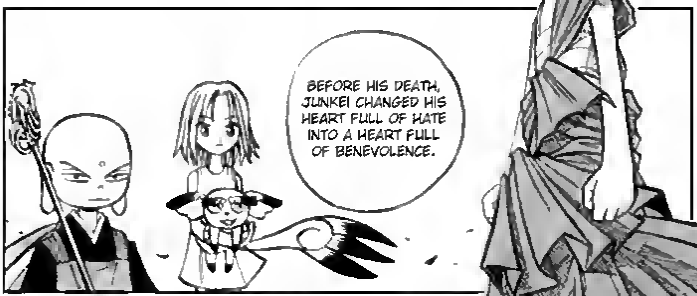

OKAY?
GREAT. . DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING IT ALONG.


IT HAS ABOVE ALL A STRENGTH, AN INNER BEAUTY AND AN EXPRESSION WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE TRANSCENDED SUFFERING AND SADNESS. SHE WAS ABLE TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY THE HEARTS OF ALL THOSE WHO WERE LOOKING UPON IT.
THIS STATUE WAS SO WELL-MADE THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE IT WAS DONE STARTING FROM SIMPLE PIECES OF WOOD. BUT BESIDE BEING EXQUISITELY WROUGHT,
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STORY...
THE TEMPLE SAIGANN WAS...
SNIF SNIF
SNIF SNIF
SNIF
YOU SEEM SURPRISED... YET, SENNJU DIDN'T COME TO THIS TEMPLE BY CHANCE!
WHAT?! DID YOU SAY THE TEMPLE SAIGANN ?!


NOW WE KNOW WHERE YOUR FEATURES COME FROM, SENNJU...

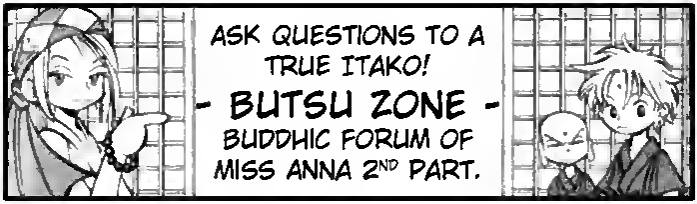

THIS STORY TOOK PLACE 150 YEARS AGO. THIS MEANS THAT AT LEAST THREE MONKS HAD BEEN AT THE HEAD OF THIS TEMPLE SINCE THEN!


BENEVOLENCE IS ABLE TO CHANGE HATE
HATE ONLY GENERATES HATE


BEFORE HIS DEATH, JUNKEI CHANGED HIS HEART FULL OF HATE INTO A HEART FULL OF BENEVOLENCE.

THAT'S HOW THIS "BODY" WAS BORN, FILLED WITH THE DESIRE TO SAVE ALL HUMAN BEINGS.

COULD YOU SCULPT THE 1,000 ARMS ARMOUR OF SENNJU KANNON ONCE AGAIN?!
JUNKEI, WE HAVE A BIG FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU!
PAH
... TO SAVE ALL HUMANS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WITH THOSE 1,000 ARMS!!
BECAUSE I VOWED...
I'LL DEDICATE MY HEART TO YOUR SERVICE...
DON'T WORRY AND LEAVE EVERY-THING TO JUNKEI, THE MODEST STATUE CARVER!
I'M VERY PLEASED
I DON'T SEE HOW I COULD REFUSE!
HE HE ... REALLY ...



Q Speaking of One Piece(the series) ,I think that the style of Eiichiro Oda (its author) reassembled your own immensely Tell me, is there any connection between you two I want to know it!

R Oda is one of my great friends We both cheer for the Seibu baseball team like two fierce warriors Moreover he lives 10 km away from me We got to know each other at a time where we roamed the halls of the publishing houses in search of a job I even met itinerant comedians in those halls! Hee, you know I'll go for a ride to the "Far West Village" with my family soon I'm going to mount a horse and people will take pictures of me!

Q I renounce of knowing Mr Mikio Itos identity as well as the meaning of the mysterious poster in "Ruroni" "One Piece" and "Butsu Zone". Please tell us at least when we'll be able to watch this mysterious show I absolutely want to see Sennju and little Satchi on this show. Has there been someone bearing a resemblance to them on the last performance?

R Yes, indeed! They truly look alike! I made them come especially for you because it was the last performance I hope to be as successful with my next series as I did with this show!! Well, cheer up! However, I'm very glad you noticed all those little details

Q Does Hirofumi Takei, the author of " Kaguero-kun" (for sale in Yanma KC), have a connection to your world? " Kaguero-kun" was written on Batos truck a while ago

R Hirofumi Takei is my little brother.

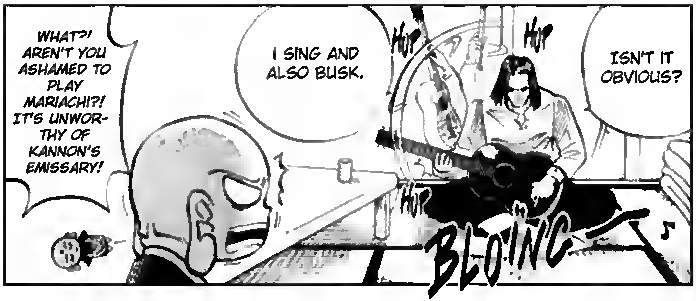
Q What does "streaking" mean? And who is Daasah?

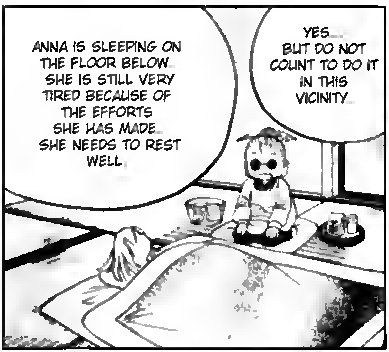
R Actually before starting the series Butsu Zone , JUMP –Magazine launched the project "prize for the new mangaka" and I wrote a oneshot (one page) about "streaking" I also wrote a 6-episode story, soul-stirring, which depicted a rather perverse photo of Daasah I can't reveal his identity because truth be told, it's an editor, full of complexes. Sennju: " Didn't you just reveal who he is?" Jizo: "Yeah he did it on purpose!" Some people advised me to publish those stories in pocket sized mangas but I think that unfortunately it will never be possible In fact no, it was "Daasah" who didn't agree with it at all and he told me: "They'll all make fun of me!" So you see, concerning a so-called problem of non-available rooms it's kind of fishy But I hold out (Daasah isn't my appointed editor) I tell you this to lighten things up It's a heavy-set and jolly guy but I reassure you I like him a lot!

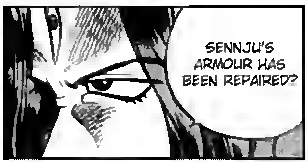
安井旅館
CLAC
HERE'S THE RING OF YOUR ARMOUR ...
LET US SEE..
... HOW YOUR ARMS REACT NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY REMADE
YOUR ARMOUR ... IS IT REALLY REPAIRED?
YOU REALLY WILL BE ABLE TO BATTLE AGAINST ASHURA NOW?
SINCERE PRAYER
KAH !
WHAT ....

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL ARMOUR!
GREAT!
I'M SURE THAT WITH THIS NEW ARMOUR I'LL BE ABLE TO FULFILL MY MISSION!
EACH OF MY ARMS ARE OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY! IT'S THE FIRST TIME I EXPERIENCE MY POWER SO CLEARLY WHILE I SLIP ON MY ARMOUR!
DAH
...!!
THE VOICE CAME FROM THE ROOM NEXT DOOR!
WHO'S THERE?!
SO ... HAS THE TIME COME YET?
!

W... WHAT?! IT'S... IT'S YOU?!
BLAM!
WHO DARES TO INTRUDE UPON US?!
IT'S OVER HERE!!
TAM TAM
BUT ... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! ...
... BATO, EMISSARY OF KANNON!!
WHAT I AM DOING HERE, YOU ASK ?!
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY WE AGREED TO MEET ON THE MOUNTAIN OF FEARS, DIDN'T WE?
HE HE
REALLY ... WHAT A FUNNY QUESTION!
BLING
GAH
IT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT TO SAY? HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS BOARDING HOUSE? AND WHERE DID YOU GET THE MONEY TO PAY FOR IT?

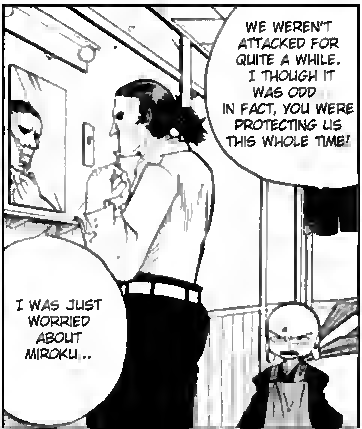

WHAT?! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO PLAY MARIACHI?! IT'S UNWORTHY OF KANNON'S EMISSARY!
I SING AND ALSO BUSK.
Hup
Hup
Hup
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
BLO'ING

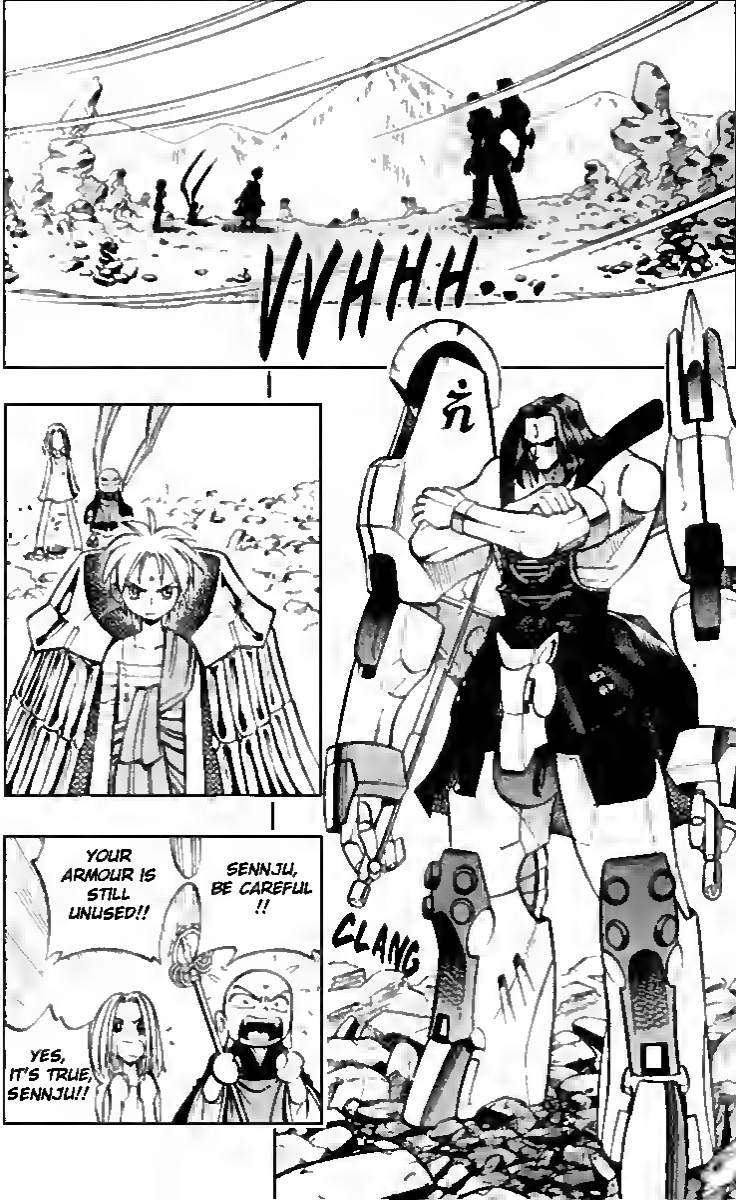

ANNA IS SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR BELOW. SHE IS STILL VERY TIRED BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS SHE WAS MADE. SHE NEEDS TO REST WELL.
YES... BUT DO NOT COUNT TO DO IT IN THIS VICINITY.


SENNJU'S ARMOUR HAS BEEN REPAIRED?

DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO FIGHT AGAINST HIM?

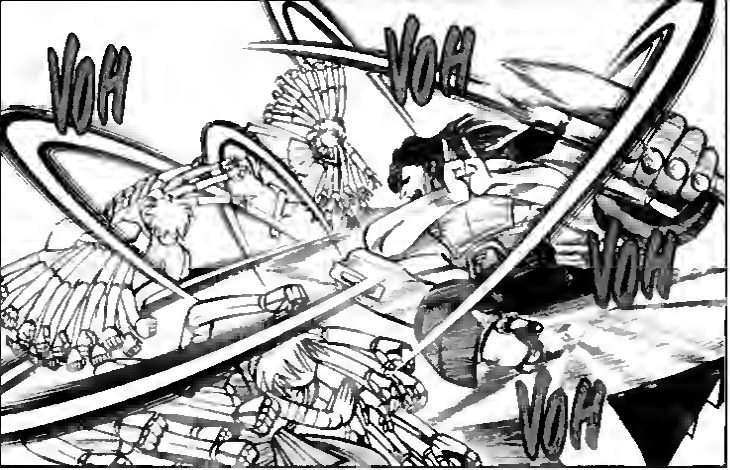
THE DECISIVE BATTLE IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF FEAR.


WE WEREN'T ATTACKED FOR QUITE A WHILE. I THOUGH IT WAS ODD IN FACT, YOU WERE PROTECTING US THIS WHOLE TIME!
I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT MIROKU...


VVHHH
YOUR ARMOUR IS STILL UNUSED!!
SENNJU, BE CAREFUL !!
YES, IT'S TRUE SENNJU!!
CLANG

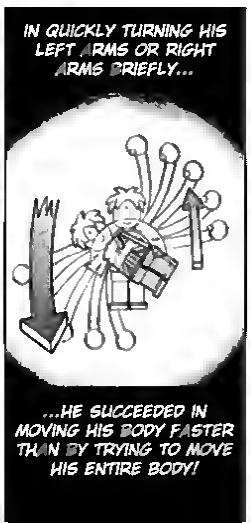
... I'LL MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND!
DOH
DON'T SAY THOSE WORDS, GREAT MIROKU...
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE JOURNEY WITH ANYBODY BUT YOU!!
DON'T WORRY, SATCH!.. IT'LL BE ME WHO IS GOING TO PROTECT YOU, TRUST ME ON THIS MATTER..
!
GLUPS
ER...
OPEN YOUR EYES, IT'S NOT SELF CONFIDENCE ...
SAH
SELF CONFIDENCE IS A NICE THING...
... HEH
IT'S AN OATH

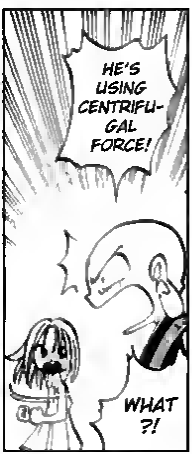
BAAH
WE'LL SEE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR OATH!!
IAAAHHHH !!
BOOH
I WON'T SPARE YOU !!


VOH
VOH
VOH
VOH

I NEVER SAW HIM MOVE SO QUICKLY!!
SENNJU IS ALSO VERY STRONG!!
AS IF THEY WERE NOTHING BUT CHILDREN'S TOYS!!
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE POWER?! HE IS WIELDING AND WHIRLING SUCH HEAVY WEAPONS...

WHEN DID SENNJU ACHIEVE SUCH HIGH-LEVEL CONCENTRATION?!


IN QUICKLY TURNING HIS LEFT ARMS OR RIGHT ARMS BRIEFLY...
...HE SUCCEEDED IN MOVING HIS BODY FASTER THAN BY TRYING TO MOVE HIS ENTIRE BODY!


HE'S USING CENTRIFUGAL FORCE!
WHAT ?!

ZAAH~
LOOK!!
ALL YOU CAN DO IS SHAKE UP YOUR ARMS IN EACH DIRECTIONS LIKE A POOR DISTRAUGHT BUTTERFLY!
YOU'RE PATHETIC!
TCHAC
CLANG
CLIC
SPECIAL TECHNIQUE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS ?!
PSHH
PSHH
MAXIMUM ATTACKING POSITION : "THE ASSAULT TANK"!!

DON'T YOU REGRET YOUR COMING NOW?!
AHAH HAH HAH HA!
GOOOOH
SENNJU IS NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO DODGE THAT MANY WEAPONS!
THIS IS BAD!!
OH NO! HIS BODY IS COVERED WITH DEADLY WEAPONS !!
ATTACK OF THE MANY FOLD BLADES !!
HAI YAH !!!
BLAM

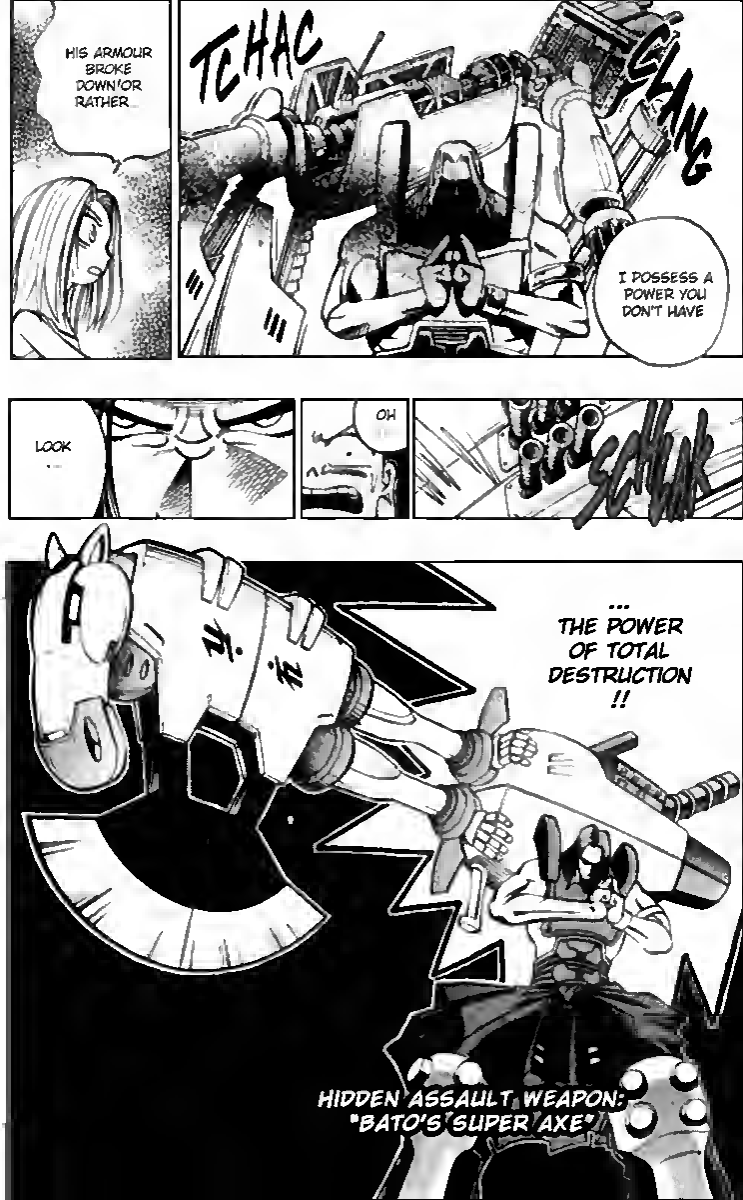
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH SOME OF THEM
.....
CHHH...
BUT WHO COULD IMAGINE YOU WOULD CATCH THEM ALL... WITH ONLY THREE OF YOUR ARMS!
SLIDE
I'M SENNJU KANNON
MY MISSION IS "TO SAVE EVERYONE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WITH MY THOUSAND ARMS OF TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION"!
BATO... YOU ARE MY BROTHER SO YOU KNOW MY CATCH PHRASE WELL

I WON'T LOSE AGAINST YOU, BROTHER...
BLING
BUT...!
YES, MY NEW ARMOUR IS FITTED OUT WITH TRANSDUCERS CAPABLE TO LOCATE ANYTHING, WHATEVER ITS SPEED.
IT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE... WHERE DOES ALL HIS POWER COME FROM?! DOES HE DRAW IT FROM THE SWORN OATH?!
WUAH!
HE'S EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE!
HE HE... GOOD OLD SENNJU! HE IMPROVED A LOT... IN SO LITTLE TIME!
DON' T YOU AGREE, YOU OTHERS?
FLAP

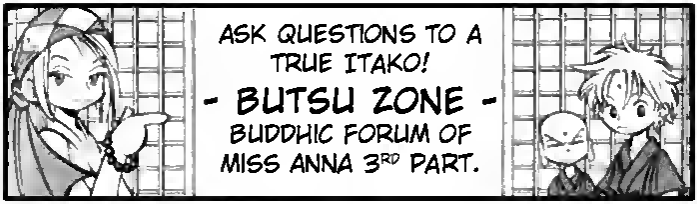
... YOU, MEMBERS OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN!!

KUBANDA
I NEVER IMAGINE I WOULD ONE DAY SEE BUDDHAS FIGHT EACH OTHER IN SUCH WAYS! WHAT HAPPENED? SO WHAT ANYWAY WE ARE THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN, DEMONS OF THE HINDU ANTIQUITY WE FEAR NO ONE!
ASHURA! YOU ALREADY HAD THE CHANCE OF FIGHTING THEM, RIGHT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU FINISH THEM OFF AT THAT TIME?! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR YOU!
GOBUJO
KAROURA
HEHE . GOBUJO YOU FORGET THAT ASHURA IS REALLY BATTLE ADDICTED! HE WOULD REFUSE TO FIGHT AN OPPONENT MOMENTARILY WEAKENED!
ASHURA, THE FACT IS THAT WE BORROWED THE BUTSU ZONE WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE BUDDHAS' COUNTRY WON'T THAT POSE PROBLEMS?
HIBAKARA
KINNARA
A VERY LONG TIME AGO WE WERE ALSO THE FRIENDS OF THE BUDDHAS BUT TODAY, THE WHOLE LAND IS NOTHING BUT ROT!
APPARENTLY HUMANS HAVE FORGOTTEN BUDDHA'S TEACHING! THEIR HEART WAS TWISTED! I THINK WE CAN TRUST ASHURA
KENDATSUBA
SHAKARA
EH! INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME ARGUING LET'S GET IT OVER WITH THOSE NUISANCES!!

I'LL BE THE ONE FIGHTING SENNJU! I HAVE TO ABSOLUTELY KNOW...
INDEED ...
MM?
EH, THERE'S NO CATCH! I UNDERSTAND. WE'LL MAKE NO MOVE UNTIL YOU ORDER US TO!
COME ON, DON'T BE ANGRY! I WAS TALKING RUBBISH!
.. ..ON WHICH SIDE LIES "JUSTICE"!!
SO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LOSE TO YOU?!
INDEED THAT'S WHAT YOUR EYES ARE TELLING ME... VERY WELL. FROM NOW ON THINGS ARE GOING TO GET SERIOUS


HIS ARMOUR BROKE DOWN'OR RATHER...
TCHAC
CLANG
I POSSESS A POWER YOU DON'T HAVE
LOOK...
OH!!
SCHLUK
...THE POWER OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION!!
HIDDEN ASSAULT WEAPON: "BATO'S SUPER AXE"

IN VIEW OF YOUR SPEED JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, I WOULD SAY YOU ALREADY USED UP AT LEAST 80% OF YOUR ARMOUR'S ENERGY.
WHICH MEANS THAT YOUR ARMS ARE NOW TOO WEAK TO FEND OFF MY NEXT ATTACK!
NOW IT'S US TWO !!
"LIFE LIGHTENING EXPLOSION"!! THE WORLD OF DESIRES.



Q Master Takei, please introduce yourself?!
R I was born May 15th,1972 under the Rat (Chinese astrology) and my blood type is A positive My" guardian Buddha" is Sennju Kanon!! Don't use my birth date if you practise witchcraft or perform the ceremony of Exorcism The fact that my birth date is the same as Kenichi Mikawas and Sadatora Araki s somewhat spices up my life
Jizo "Eh, we don t care about all this stuff! Let s get back to the subject!" Sennju "Ok, err so, let s take care first.. of the questions addressed to us most often.

Q And what about the sequel?! Have you finished or not?!
R Listen, I can't hide anything from you My work as mangaka is a field where I can t and won't hide anything from you For the ones interested, at the end of this volume there's every information about myself Sometimes I even try imagining stepping into your shoes ...

Q I have had a wish to exorcise to death JUMP s editing workroom since they stopped publishing Butsu Zone, my beloved manga! Do you have any ideas to suggest?
R There s no catch! I ll see to rearrange Torishima s face, then everyone will be able to go on with his own life style as if nothing happened!
Sennju "Nevertheless don t forget that your heart should know kindness!"

Q It's a question which may seem basic to you, but could you tell me the meaning of the word "Nirvana"?
R To be honest I don't know its true meaning
Jizo "We have the right to know how you could get involved in this adventure!"
Sennju. "Still we don't really know its meaning ,too. The Bodhisattvas are only apprentices "
I always thought it was a topic we shouldn't talk over The wish to escape into Nirvana , no matter what it takes, will most likely stop the desire to have a social life (don't you agree?)
Sennju "It's a great idea Come on,little Satchi, be of good cheer!!"
Jizo "Fine, carry on speaking. What are you waiting for?!"

Q What happens to a Bodhisattva after he leaves the Butsu Zone?
R His soul returns to the land of Buddhism.. that's it,right?
Jizo "If you say so. Leave me alone."
Sennju "Jizo! You know very well that our soul can t get away with back and forth trips to earth without the Dai-Nichi Nyorai s approval..."
Jizo "Yeah, but to tell the truth, it's not as simple as it looks. You know, dying is harder than you think it is It's hell!"
Sennju "That s how it is Death spares no one "
For real now, what's your opinion on "reincarnation"? We come back to earth but in a different body

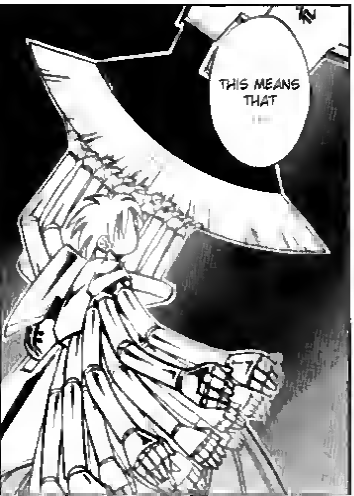
Q There are various Sennju Kannons in Japan I'd like to know why Sennju chose to inhabitate the body of Sennju Kannon from the Saigann temple
R It brings him closer to Satchi if he had used statues of very famous temples, this would have most likely stirred up great scandals in the human world The Buddhic World was not very keen on it. We are still living in an unsafe world!

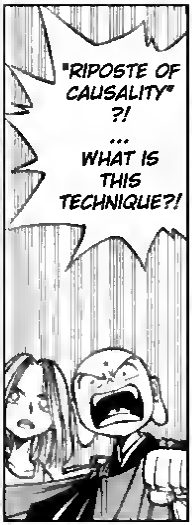
Q Jizo seems to have balance problems sometimes ..and that worries me
R Jizo,"What? It s nifty-looking, ain t it? That gives me a certain style, don' t you agree?!" .. is this question hiding another one?

LIFE FLASHES EXPLOSION !!!
WHAT WILL HE BE ABLE TO DO?!
AAAH! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID IT!
SENNJU! LOOK OUT !!!

BUTSU 16 -
THE DANGEROUS
BODHISATTVA
SECRET
TECHNIQUE
"RIPOSTE OF
CAUSALITY"

BUDDHA TEACHES US THAT EACH PERSON RECEIVES IN THIS WORLD POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE REMUNERATIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR PAST OR PRESENT DEEDS
"RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY" ....


THIS MEANS THAT


"RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY" ?!
... WHAT IS THIS TECHNIQUE?!

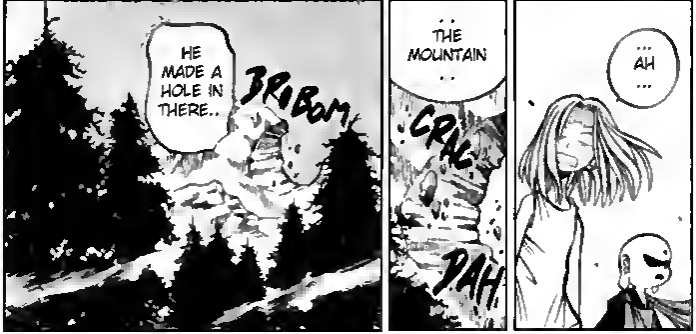
WHAT?!
HE IS DRAINING OUT THE ARMOUR'S ENERGY!!

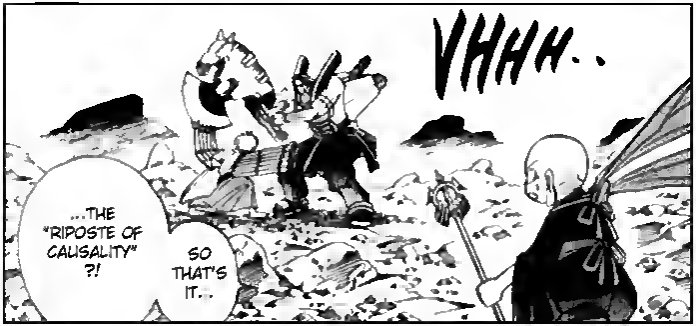
BOW

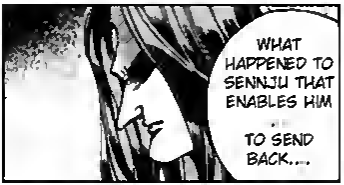
...
USING THIS SECRET TECHNIQUE ENABLES ITS MASTER TO RETURN ANY ONSLAUGHT TO THE ASSAILANT!!
ZAH
ZAH
ZAH
!
EH ?!
HE BLOCKED MY AXE?! HOW DID HE DO THIS?!
ZAAH!
TO STRICTLY USE STRENGTH AGAINST STRENGTH IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF A FOOL ...
I WANT TO USE MY WISDOM TO FIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS!
THAT'S WHY HE EMPTIED HIS ARMOUR'S ENERGY!!
HE IS SUCKING MY OWN ENERGY WITH HIS LEFT ARMS!!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HIS RIGHT FISTS ARE ABOUT TO STRIKE OUT!

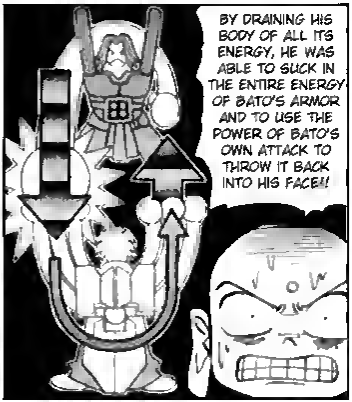
SPECIAL ATTACK... "RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY" !!!

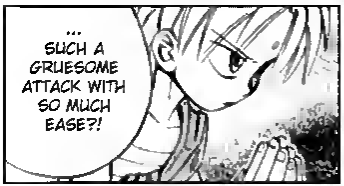
BAAH
!!!!
!
GOOH
IAAAAA
HHH
!!!


HE MADE A HOLE IN THERE..
BRIBOM
...THE MOUNTAIN...
CRAC
DAH
...AH...

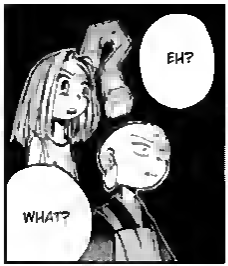

VHHH..
...THE "RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY" ?!
SO THAT'S IT...


WHAT HAPPENED TO SENNJU THAT ENABLES HIM TO SEND BACK....


BY DRAINING HIS BODY OF ALL ITS ENERGY, HE WAS ABLE TO SUCK IN THE ENTIRE ENERGY OF BATO'S ARMOR AND TO USE THE POWER OF BATO'S OWN ATTACK TO THROW IT BACK INTO HIS FACE!!


... SUCH A GRUESOME ATTACK WITH SO MUCH EASE?!

AND ABOVE ALL, WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED THIS POWER WHICH VISIBLY ALWAYS HAS BEEN YOURS BEFORE?!
CHEEH
WHY DIDN'T YOU SEND THIS ATTACK BACK TO ME?!
GRR
SENNJU...
!
IF I HAD TO USE IT DIRECTLY AND TO ITS FULL EXTENT THERE WOULD BE NO WINNER LEFT BEHIND!
SORRY, MY BROTHER... BUT I VOWED NEVER TO HURT ANYONE. ..AND THIS POWER IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
HAH!
PAH
WATCH OUT, SENNJU!!
HE HE ...
HE HE HE HE ...

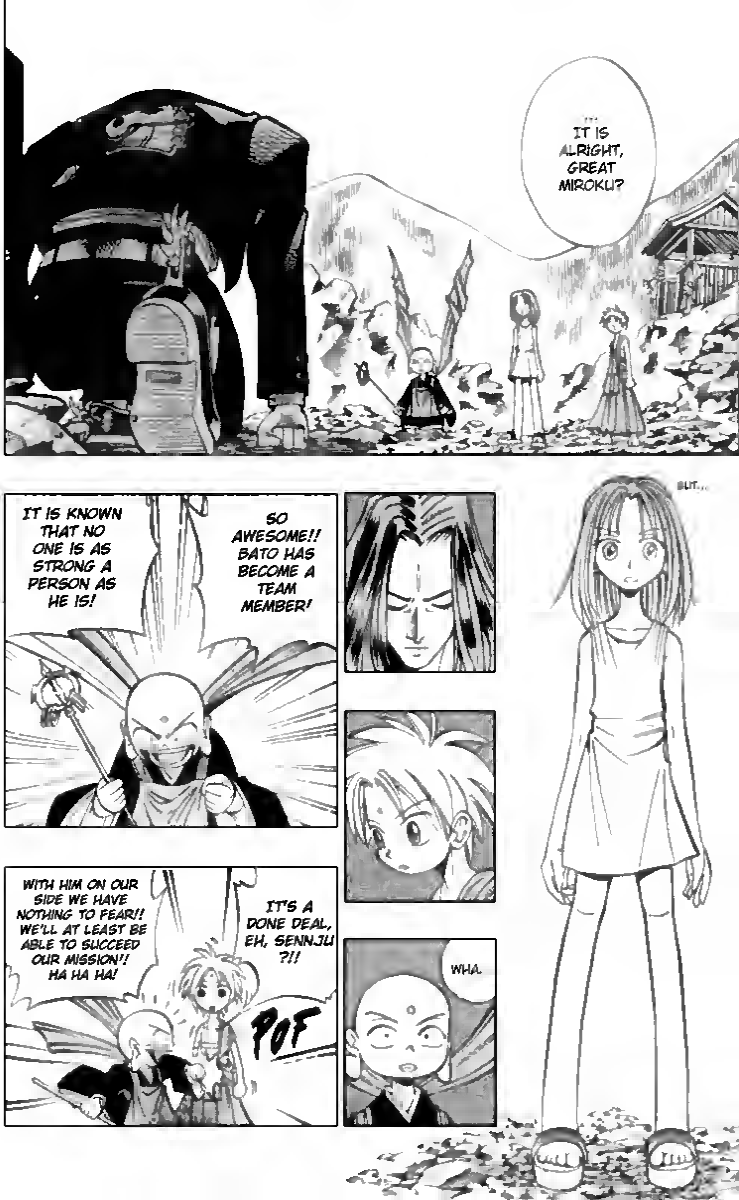


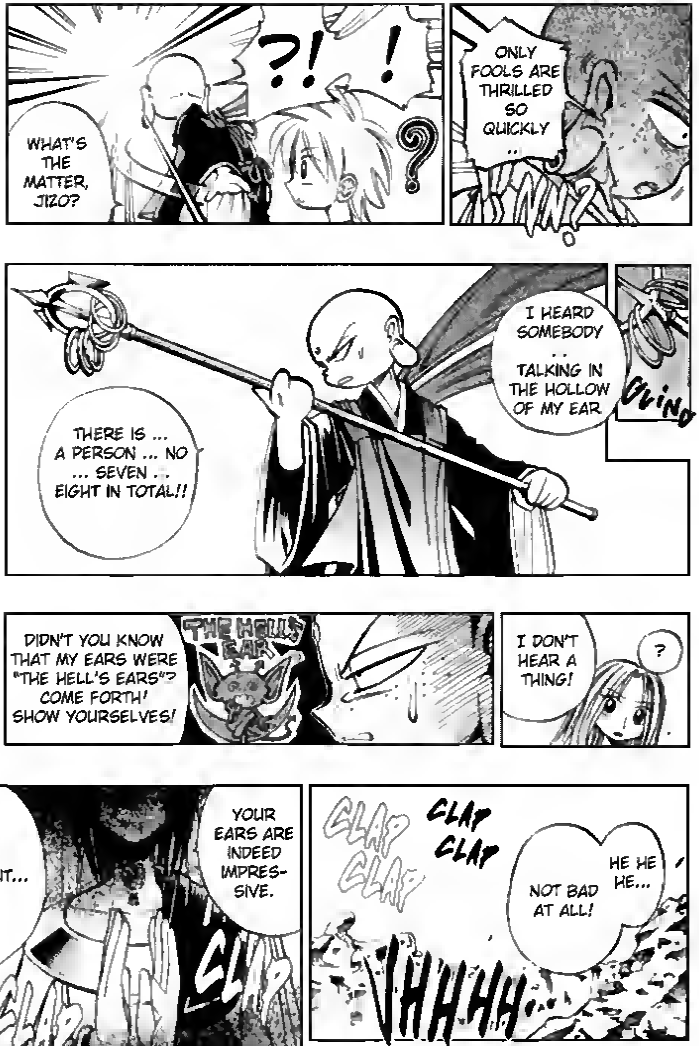
SORRY FOR THIS LIE
TRUTH BE TOLD
... I ALONE DECIDED TO FOLLOW YOU. PRIOR TO IT I HAD TO MAKE SURE SENNJU WAS ABLE TO PLAY THE PART THAT FELL TO HIM!
VHHH

I DON'T KNOW WTF 'HEIN' MEANS, SO I AM LEAVING IT THERE

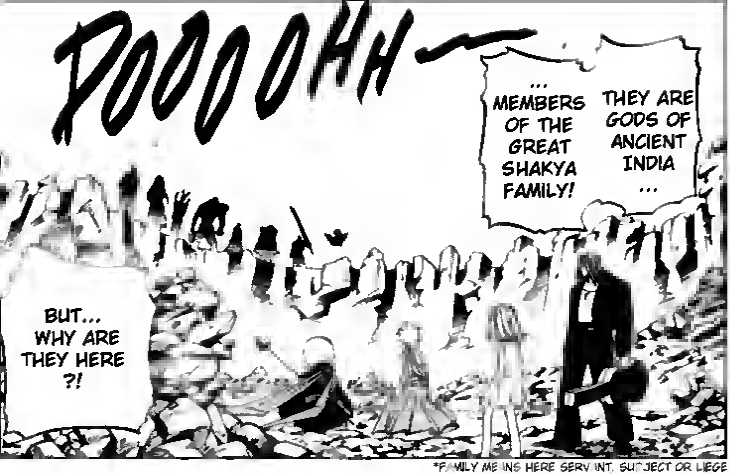
-HEE

IT WAS THE BEST OF SURPRISES FOR ME!
YOU KNOW, SENNJU, YOU ARE REALLY AMAZING
YOU WERE SO SERIOUS, SO CONCENTRATED...
TAH
I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW...
UNTIL NOW YOU MANAGED EXCELLENTLY!
BATO, I..
ZAH
AT PRESENT I HUMBLY ASK YOU TO ALLOW BATO, EMISSARY OF KANNON, TO JOIN YOUR GROUP..
OK!!

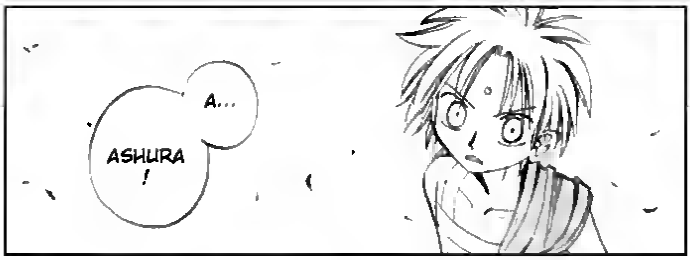

... IT IS ALRIGHT, GREAT MIROKU?
IT IS KNOWN THAT NO ONE IS AS STRONG A PERSON AS HE IS!
SO AWESOME!! BATO HAS BECOME A TEAM MEMBER!
BUT...
WITH HIM ON OUR SIDE WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!! WE'LL AT LEAST BE ABLE TO SUCCEED OUR MISSION!! HA HA HA!
IT'S A DONE DEAL, EH, SENNJU ?!!
POF
WHA.


?!
!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JIZO?
ONLY FOOLS ARE THRILLED SO QUICKLY ..
I HEARD SOMEBODY .. TALKING IN THE HOLLOW OF MY EAR.
GUIND
THERE IS ... A PERSON ... NO ... SEVEN .. EIGHT IN TOTAL!!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT MY EARS WERE "THE HELL'S EARS"? COME FORTH! SHOW YOURSELVES!
THE HELL'S EAR
I DON'T HEAR A THING!
?
YOUR EARS ARE INDEED IMPRESSIVE.
BUT...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
HE HE HE...
NOT BAD AT ALL!
HHHH

WHAT'S MORE... FORMIDABLE IS THIS AMUSING POWER OF BUDDHA....
...THAT IS SENNJU'S !!
IT'S THOSE GUYS!
GAAAAH !!!!
THEY ARE THE 8 DRAGONS OF HEAVEN!!



*FAMILY MEANS HERE SERVANT, SUBJECT OR LIEGE



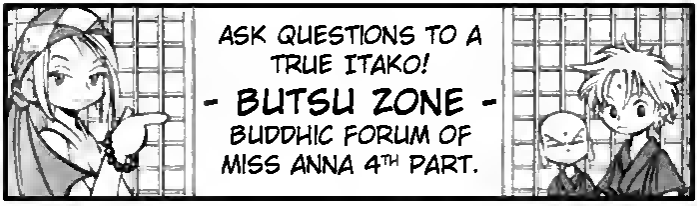
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO BOTHER US DURING OUR FIGHT.. EVERY PERSON PRESENT HERE ARE ONLY SPECTATORS!
SORRY, SENNJU... BUT I CAME BACK TO END OUR LITTLE RIVALRY... NO! PLEASE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE OTHERS!

!
TOH
TRAITOR!! HOW DO YOU WANT US TO TRUST YOU!!
STOP JIGGLING SO MUCH, CHILD!! DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT OUR MASTER SAID? HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED?!
DON'T TALK AND DON'T MOVE...OTHERWISE YOU'LL REGRET IT!! I'M SO FAST THAT IT WOULD BE VERY EASY TO KILL MIROKU BEFORE YOU COULD TELL THAT I'M GONE!!
BUT... HOW CAN YOU BE SO FAST?!

WHICH ONE OF US IS RIGHT!
HEH
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE... I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
BY 8 AGAINST 3 YOU WOULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE WINNING. WHY IS THIS DUEL SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?
JIZO, DO WHAT HE SAYS!!
!
. . ?
A LITTLE SOME-THING THAT ...
SENNJU, BEFORE THE FIGHT STARTS OVER, I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
... YOU CERTAINLY HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING !!
!

WHEN SOMEONE STEALS A BELOVED THING OF BUDDHA, IS HE REALLY ABLE TO LOVE HIS OPPONENT WITHOUT INVOLVING HATE?
KO...
KOMA!
ASHURA!! ... WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HIM?! DROP HIM RIGHT AWAY!!
FIRST, ANSWER MY QUESTION! WHEN YOU STEAL FROM A BUDDHA SOMETHING DEAR TO HIM, IS HE REALLY ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!
EXPLAIN!
VERY WELL...
SINCE YOU CAN'T ANSWER, I'LL HAVE TO TRY THE EXPERIENCE MYSELF...

SBAM
!!
FROM HATE TO BENEVOLENCE... LET'S SEE HOW YOU ACT UPON THIS BEAUTIFUL RULE IN SUCH A CRUEL WORLD!
I REALLY AM LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!



Q Err.. is Jizo totally in love with Sennju?
R .. (sputtering) Sennju "Eh?!"

Q Is a progress of the Butsu Zone possible?
R Eh? But yes, of course! The Butsu Zone is progressing a little bit each day. Actually progress is made at heart level. Thus the field vision is starting to become more maudlin.
Jizo "I stayed the same for 2500 years!" Sennju "Listen, Jizo this is what it means to be an adult. Your evolution has ended right?!" Jizo " .."

Q Will Jizo remain bald all his life?
R Sennju "Yeah, he is after all 2500 years old. It's normal that he is as bald as a coot!" Jizo "Sennju, stop talking nonsense!!"

Q You know the Rokujizo (the 6 Jizo) don't you? Are you going to give brothers to Jizo?
R Yes exactly! I had in mind to create sextuplets in style of "team of POM POM girls with freckles". According to a dictionary on Buddhism, it seems that great Master Emma is another embodiment of Jizo. So .. I thought of using the elder one in a different way... BUH-HUH! Jizo "Don't cry!" Sennju "Next question is about the start of the series."

Q I would like to see Ashura a bit more often. Draw him some more, please!
R Ok! I heard you loud and clear! Under those circumstances... I'll earnestly muse on creating a special celestial garment for Ashura! At the end of the volume you'll see a special pin up girl! Don miss it!! Jizo "And what would he do with this piece of cloth?" Sennju "You are quite the lucky guy, Ashura!" Jizo "Eh?" Don't fret. I promise to take care of the matter as fast as possible. As to Ashura's tattoo, it's not a real one (it's a temporary tattoo!). So I'm able to draw him as many times as I wish to.

Q I'd like to disguise myself as Ashura or Anna but I don't know the colours you used for their dress.
R That's a question coming up often! Hmm... Why don't you use colours you like? So what? It's more joyful this way, right? You could try two or three variants and submit them to me. Don't forget that the freedom to choose is one of the virtues of the Butsu Zone. Free in everything! Bloody pirates, they are lucky! Sennju "Welcome to the ball! Why don't you send us lots of photos?" Jizo "Pirates? Where?!"

CRAC..
WHY DID YOU KILL KOMA!? HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!!
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT, ASHURA?!
BUT ...
I JUST WANT TO SEE IF SOMEONE STEALS SOMETHING DEAR TO YOU...
LIKE I SAID...
PFF..
KOMA PLACED HIS TRUST IN ME! HE WAS FOND OF US ALL!!
SO WHY DID YOU KILL HIM?!
BAH!!
... YOU TRULY ARE CAPABLE TO FEEL AN ATTACHMENT AND NOT HATE TOWARDS THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO YOU.

CONCERN-
NG
WRATH
...
BAH
BIG
...
BROTHER
...
YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO BETRAY THE HEART FILLED WITH BENEVOLENCE OF JUNKEI, THE SCULPTOR WHO CREATED YOU!
OWAH
SENNJU, JIZO WAS RIGHT! YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOUR HEART BE DARKENED BY HATE!
ZZAAH
WHATEVER YOU DO, YOU WON'T SUCCEED!
IT'S THE ROLE OF BATO KANNON !!!
...LEAVE IT IN CHARGE OF THE ONE SHOWING THE WAY OF SALVATION THROUGH FURY!!
BECAUSE THE WRATH OF A BODHISATTVA FORETELLS THE DEFEAT OF HIS OPPONENTS!!

HMM .. SEEMS LIKE KARURA ACTED IN AN INCONSIDERATE MANNER.
WUAA AAAH!!
KILL HIM!!
FORWARD!!
DAAH

HA, ALRIGHT! I'LL TAKE YOU ON AT THE SAME TIME. YOU ARE MY OPPONENTS ALTOGETHER!!
DAN
DAAAAH
SIX TO ONE?!
IT'S TOO MANY! EVEN FOR BATO!!
POH
GLAC
ATTACK OF THE MANIFOLD BLADES!
DOH DOH DOH DOH DOH
BON BON
BON BON
DO YOU REALLY DEEM YOURSELF ABLE TO DEFEAT US SO EASILY? US, THE EIGHT DRAGONS?!

CHARGE
HNNNNN GAAAHH!
SEE THE FRIGHTENING POWER OF HIBAKARA!!
I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU. HEHEHEEE!!!
BIN
BIN
BITE OF SABARA!!!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT THE RELEASE OF MY BLADES DIVERTED ATTENTION!
YOU ARE THE FOOLS...
WHAT ....?
HEY!
GAAHHH HAHAHA!! DIE!!
BIN BIN BIN

HIBAKARA!!
AH!!
CLANG
DAMNED KANNON, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE!!
INCREDIBLE!! WHAT TREMENDOUS SKILL! HE'S FIGHTING OFF EVERY ATTACK OF HIS ENEMIES WITH ONLY ONE SWORD!!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

PAF
POH
BAHH
PARDON ME, KID ...
VOUUM
AH!!
DAMN YOU!!
...
BUT I NEVER HESITATE.

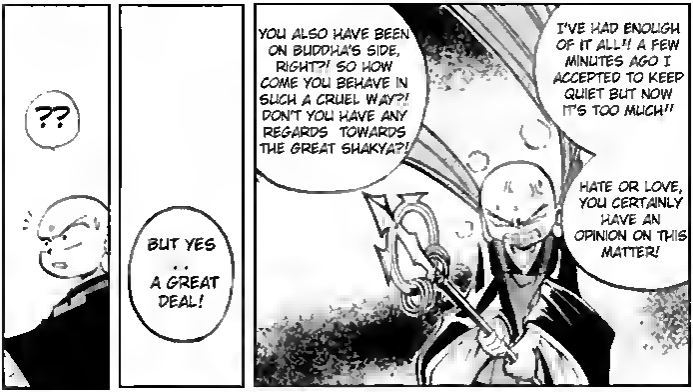
ONLY MYO-O CAN RIVAL WITH MY STRENGTH!! THAT'S WHY YOU WILL NEVER LAY A FINGER ON THE GREAT MIROKU.
YOU...
...REALLY ARE STRONG.
TELL ME WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, ASHURA!!
DAH
WHAT IS YOUR TRUE GOAL?!
HAHAHA! BUT I THINK YOU WERE WRONG!
YOU MANAGED TO BEAT FIVE PEOPLE ON YOUR OWN! NOT BAD AT ALL...
COPPS ...
ONE... TWO... THREE...

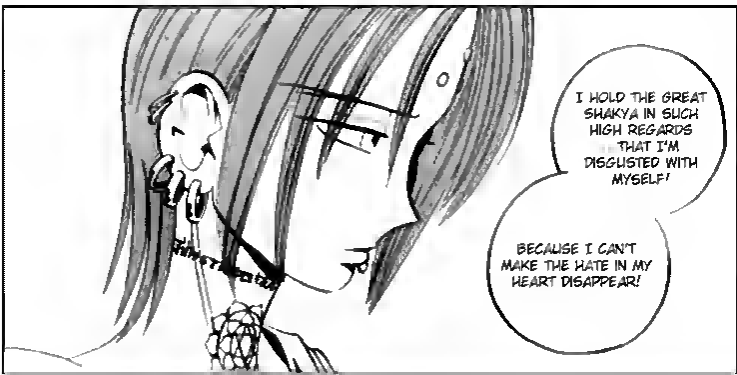
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?! I DON'T GET IT!
HE HE
HE HE HE! YOU ONLY THOUGHT OF ME AS A MERE MOUNT!
WHAT ...?
GOOOOOOH—
CLANG
WHEN ACTUALLY I'M THE TRUE WARRIOR!
PSHH

SINCE HE CAN'T JOIN HIS HANDS TOGETHER ANY LONGER, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE HIS ARMOUR ANY MORE EITHER. HE WILL KINDLY STAY HERE!
DAH
FOOOOOH
WHA.
HE HE HE .. SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

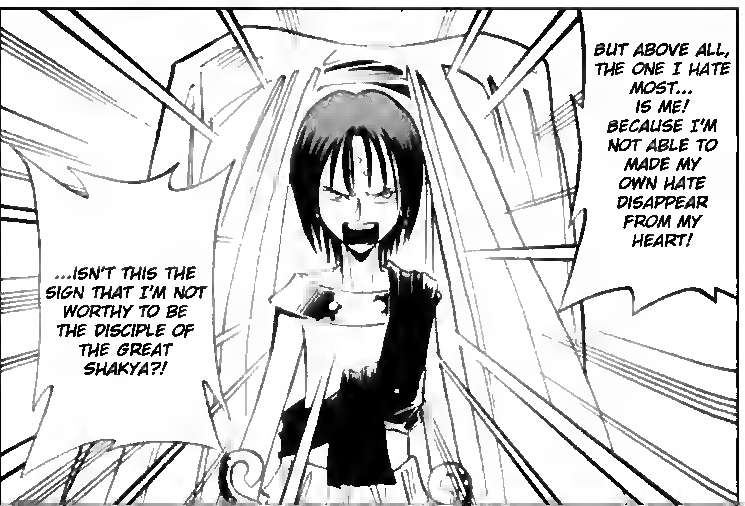
MAKE A LITTLE DISPLAY! SHOW ME THAT A BUDDHA'S HEART CAN FEEL AFFECTION EVEN FOR HIS WORST OPPONENTS!
HOW OFTEN DO YOU WANT ME TO REPEAT MYSELF?
GOD-DAMN! WHY DO YOU BEHAVE LIKE THAT, ASHURA?
TELL ME YOUR TRUE GOAL!
!
COME ON!
TO WHAT EXTENT CAN YOU HOLD UP SUCH A STATEMENT?!
ZAH !!
NO!! BIG BROTHER !!
BATO !!
AAH !!
GHA AAH!

SPIT IT OUT! TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY!!
MUST BE VERY TOUGH TO SEE OTHERS SUFFERING FOR A BODHISATTVA LIKE YOU!
HE HE... WHEN OTHERS ARE HURT, IT ENHANCES YOUR PAIN, RIGHT?
...!!


??
BUT YES... A GREAT DEAL!
YOU ALSO HAVE BEEN ON BUDDHA'S SIDE, RIGHT?! SO HOW COME YOU BEHAVE IN SUCH A CRUEL WAY?! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY REGARDS TOWARDS THE GREAT SHAKYA?!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF IT ALL!! A FEW MINUTES AGO I ACCEPTED TO KEEP QUIET BUT NOW IT'S TOO MUCH!!
HATE OR LOVE, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS MATTER!


I HOLD THE GREAT SHAKYA IN SUCH HIGH REGARDS THAT I'M DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF!
BECAUSE I CAN'T MAKE THE HATE IN MY HEART DISAPPEAR!

HAHAHA!
HELP ME!
A LONG TIME AGO I LOVED A YOUNG GIRL CALLED SASHI... BUT THE MORE I LOVED HER, THE MORE I HATED TAI-SHAKUTEN WHO ABUSED HER USING STRENGTH.
I RESPECT THE GREAT SHAKYA FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART... BUT THE MORE I RESPECT HIM...THE MORE I HATE HUMANS BECAUSE ALL OF THEM HAVE FORGOTTEN HIS LESSONS!
P.9

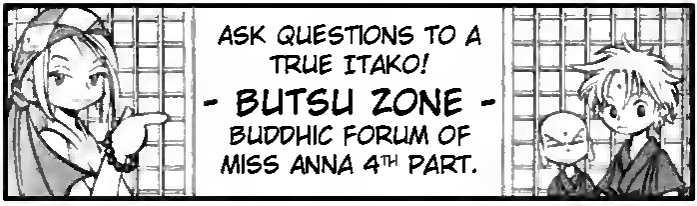

...ISN'T THIS THE SIGN THAT I'M NOT WORTHY TO BE THE DISCIPLE OF THE GREAT SHAKYA?!
BUT ABOVE ALL, THE ONE I HATE MOST... IS ME! BECAUSE I'M NOT ABLE TO MADE MY OWN HATE DISAPPEAR FROM MY HEART!

SENNJU !!
ASHURA ..
.....
SCHRIC
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO IN ORDER TO GET RID OF THE HATE EATING ME FROM THE INSIDE OUT!!
I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME HOW TO FEEL BENEVOLENCE AND TENDERNESS TOWARDS OTHERS !!!
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
GHAAH !!

GOOOH
WOULD YOU STILL BE ABLE ...
TO FEEL AFFECTION FOR ME AFTER ALL I'VE DONE?!!
YOU MUST BE KIDDING, RIGHT?!
HEH!
YOU WANT ME TO LOVE YOU... AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO KOMA AND BATO?!
...HAH!!
SHIT--!!

BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO LOVE ...
DIDN'T I ALREADY SAID THAT YOU WOULD LOSE IF YOU GET ANGRY? ASHURA IS WEAKER THAN YOU.
!!
BATO, MY BROTHER !!
STOP !!!
ASHURA ...
DAH
... YOU ARE STILL ALIVE?
HEH ...
SENNJU ... I BELIEVE IN YOU. YOU'LL SAVE HIM!
THAT'S THE END FOR YOU!! ... DIE!!
BAAAAHH

ANSWER ME!!
BIG BROTHER !!
!
BATO! NO!!
I AM SORRY,SENNJU! BUT I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM!!
I CAN'T FEEL THE TINIEST BIT OF BENEVOLENCE TOWARDS THIS MONSTER!!
TENDER-NESS ...
GRRR ...
LISTEN CAREFULLY, ASHURA! I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO DESTROY YOU!!
THANKS TO THE "SPECIAL ARMOUR OF JIZO"
KAH!!



Q Is Taishakouten supposed to be a villain? In the Buddhic pantheon he is rather a respectable Buddha... right?
R To start with what's the definition of true good and true evil? Perhaps it's an unimportant topic from a Buddhic point of view. Buddhism is not a Manichean philosophy but it's true after all that one could think Ashura had a really ridiculous demeanour in order to "get carried away" so much? On that matter I have no real comment to make save that I'm convinced Ashura also has a deeply human heart, more so than any others, besides... he is just a bit lost. Sennju: "Ashura is actually a nice guy." Jizo: "Eh?! What?!"

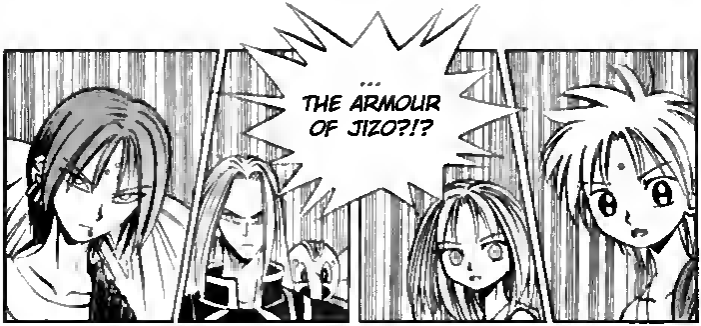
Q Despite Ashura's aggressiveness towards Sennju, it looks as if he respects him till the end after all?
R I explained all this a little at the end of the volume. So, please have a look at it.

Q I don't know why people in my circle avoid "this oafish of Bato", as they call him. For my part, I'm totally crazy about it. But there is a detail which saddens me yet... is my dear little Bato really a horse actually?
R Sennju: "There's no doubt about it." Jizo: "Ah yeah?! Did you see it for real?" Sennju: "So what? And he looks indeed like a horse." Jizo: "He he, but horse meat is yummy!!"
It seems that our two friends are losing their heads but the current Bato Kannon is wearing the effigy of a horse on his head hence his name (in India his whole head is the one of a horse). Anyway, he would look less like a playboy with a real horse as head instead of the one I have drawn for him. Jizo: "Errr...it's way better to have it on his head than between his legs, right?" Open your eyes, nobody noticed the mini horse on his head, ain't it so?! Jizo: "How did we come so far?" Sennju: "Its location is of no importance, I think you all have perverted minds." Hmmm... it's perhaps true, but nevertheless...

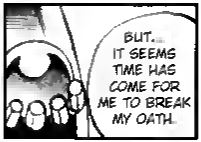
Q Is "Kimutaku" Bato's character model?
R Don't talk about misfortune! Where have you seen such an oafish "Kimutaku"!? The model's character is Antonia Banderas who played in Desperado.

Q I too love Desperado! I have always thought this comic appearing in MagaXX to be very funny!
R No, no you've got it all wrong! I'm talking about the movie! Speed along immediately to a video club to rent the movie and watch it! It's spectacular to 500%! You'll learn a bit more about Bato!
Q What is a "Mariachi"?
R Watch the movie and you'll understand! Everyone rush to your TV's to look Desperado!!

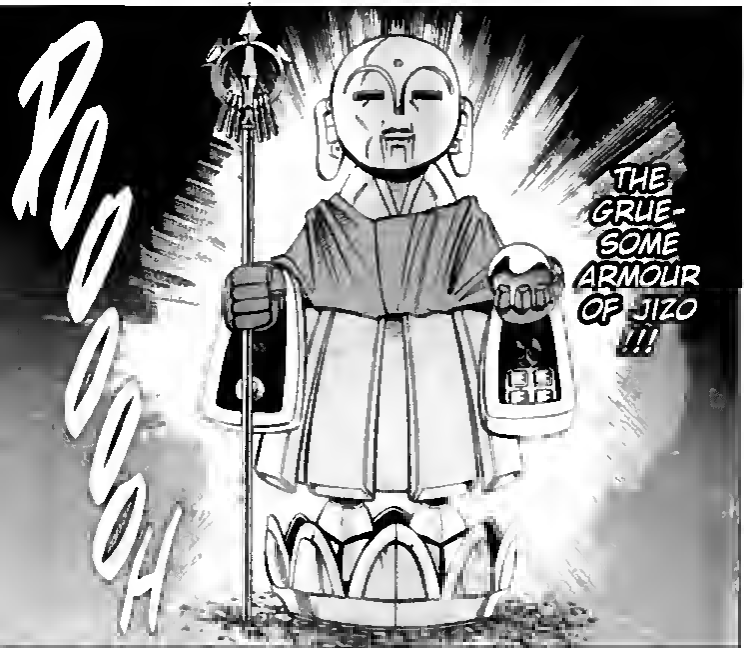
Q While looking at Koma, I have a feeling to look at Mitsuo Senda and that irritates me...
R You are two cuties! Jizo: "Yes, he really looks alike." Sennju: "Yeah, they are like as two peas in a pod."

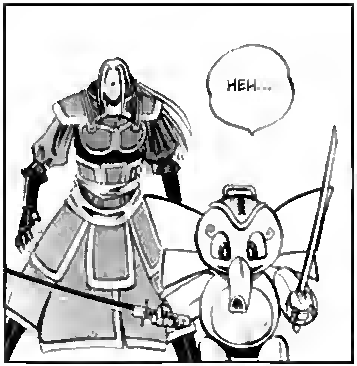

...
THE ARMOUR OF JIZO?!?

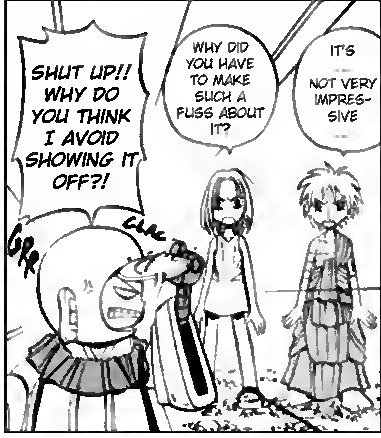
YES, BECAUSE THERE YOU HAVE.

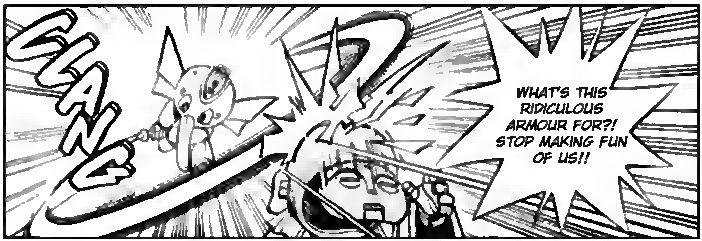

BUT... IT SEEMS TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO BREAK MY OATH.

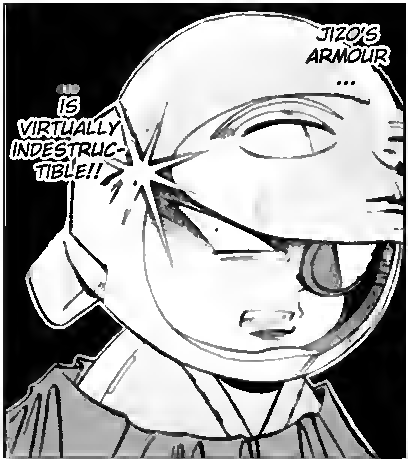
I VOWED TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PREVENT GET-TING TO SUCH LENGTHS
HMM


RO OOOH
THE GRUE-SOME ARMOUR OF JIZO !!!


HEH...


SHUT UP!! WHY DO YOU THINK I AVOID SHOWING IT OFF?!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A FUSS ABOUT IT?
IT'S ... NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE ...
GRR
CLANK

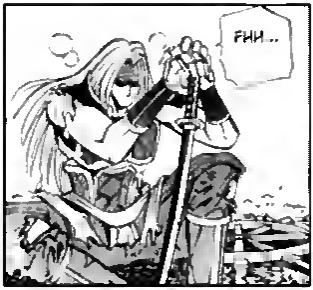

CLANG
WHAT'S THIS RIDICULOUS ARMOUR FOR?! STOP MAKING FUN OF US!!

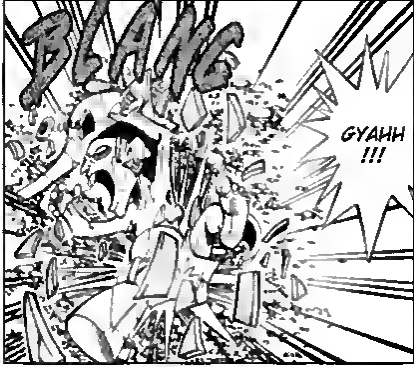

JIZO'S ARMOUR ...
IS VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE!!

I WAS GOING TO EXPLAIN IT BUT YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED IT ON YOUR OWN...

WHAT..?

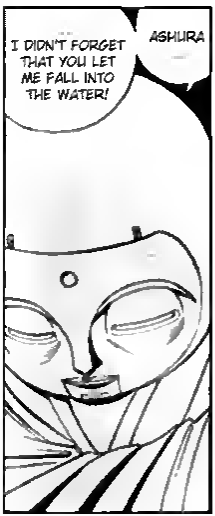
... all of this fleeting world.

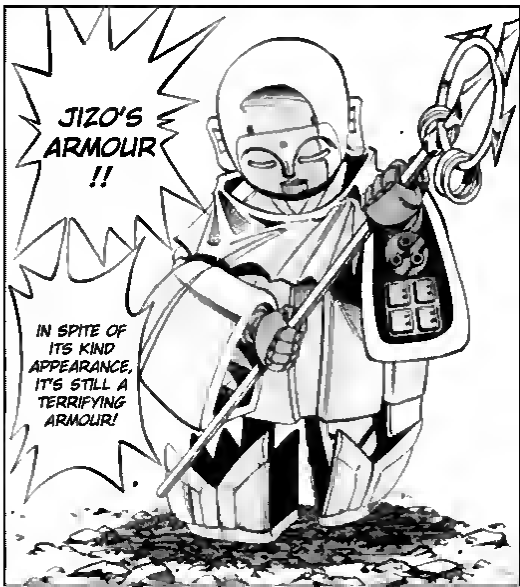

FHH..


BLANG
GYAHH !!!

BLOM
BLOM

HE IS VERY STRONG! NONE OF OUR ATTACKS SEEMS TO HAVE AN EFFECT UPON HIS PROTECTIVE ARMOUR!!


I DIDN'T FORGET THAT YOU LET ME FALL INTO THE WATER!
ASHURA


JIZO'S ARMOUR !!
IN SPITE OF ITS KIND APPEARANCE, IT'S STILL A TERRIFYING ARMOUR!

HE HE HE...!
NEXT ON MY LIST IS YOU, ASHURA!!
...BODHI-SATTVA JIZO!!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME...!!
HA-HAAA
ZOOOHH
HAH!!

ZAAH
SPECIAL BEAM OF THE HOLY ARMOUR!!

BECAUSE...
HE HE...OF COURSE!! AND THIS AUTHENTIC WALL OF IRON WHICH PROTECTS YOU WILL BECOME YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS...
HE DODGED IT?!

DAMN IT!!
YOU ARE TOO SLOW!!
SAAH
...IT'S WEIGHT PREVENTS YOU FROM MOVING AROUND QUICKLY!
TAP

BAH
YOU ARE POWER-LESS AGAINST ME!!
SO?! WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
TSK TSK ..
GHH!
FACED WITH MY AGILITY, YOU HAVE NO WAY OF DEFEATING ME!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE! YOU CAN NEVER BEAT YOUR OPPONENT IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO PLACE A HIT ON HIM!!
DO YOU INTEND TO RUN?!
ZOK
DO YOU THINK I NEVER HAVE GIVEN IT A THOUGHT SINCE THE BEGINNING?!
HEH.
DOM
DOM
DOM
DOM
DOM

VVHHHH~

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, BUT IF THIS THE WAY YOU EXPECT TO WIN...
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HIDE?

PFF...

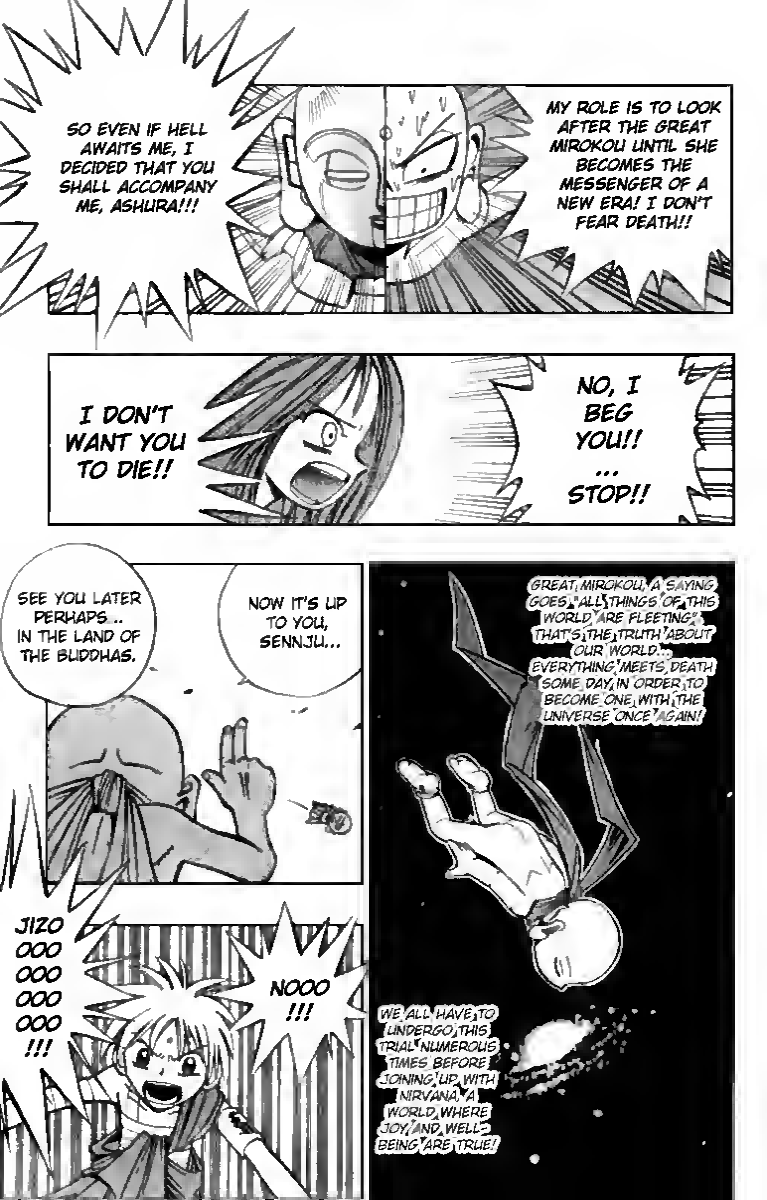
A GROUP OF JIZOS?

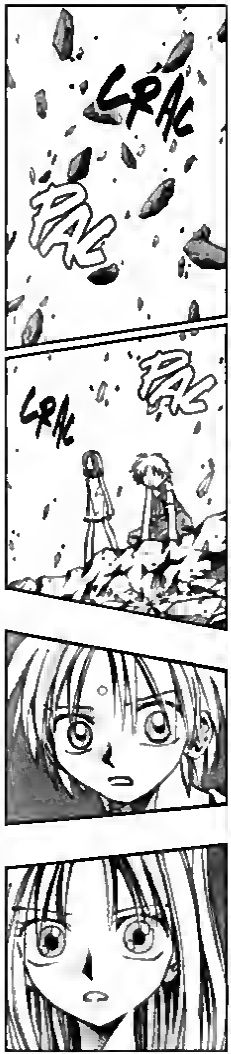
APPEAR!!
AND A THIRD ONE FOR THE MYSTERY OF THE JIZO'S BODY IN THEIR NATIVE LAND!
WHAT?
ONE JIZO FOR PAPA .. A SECOND ONE FOR MAMA ..
!

...
"THE DIVINE MANIPULATION" !!
BUT THERE IS ONE WHICH I CAN ONLY MAKE USE OF HERE!
"THORN RAIN", "DECAPITATION", "SWIRLING RAINSTORM"
THE JIZO'S HAVE MANY POWERS!
THIS...
WHAT'S THIS?
I DIVIDED THE ENERGY OF ALL MY CHAKRAS WITH ALL THESE STATUES.
I SEE....
DAHAHAHAHAHA
THEY ARE GOING TO ATTACK YOU TILL THEY ACHIEVE FINAL VICTORY !!

CLI...
CLAK
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
ZAAAAAAAK!
DO YOU THINK THAT SUCH A PATHETIC TECHNIQUE CAN BEAT ME?!
PFF...
OH, REALLY?! ... AND WHAT IF I MAKE AN ATTACK AGAINST YOU AT THE SAME TIME?!
IT'S MERELY CHILD'S PLAY FOR ASHURA'S ARMOUR !!
I DON'T CARE IF THEY ALL ATTACK ME ANYWAY!!
POH
POH
POH
POH
POH
POH
POH

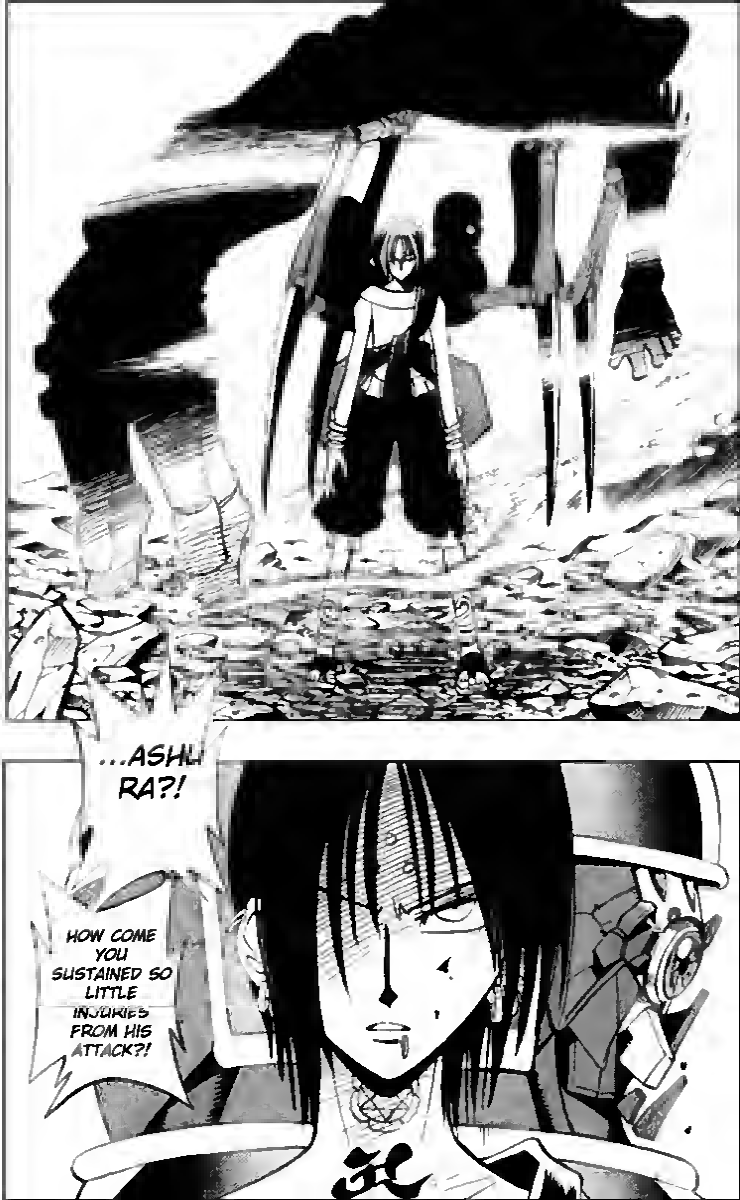
WHAT ?!
ZZOOOOH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THROWING YOURSELF AT ME?!
YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF THE MOMENT YOU PUT ON YOUR ARMOUR!!
DAMN ...
IT'S OBVIOUS I STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST YOU! BUT IF I FALL ON YOU FROM SUCH HEIGHT AND WITH SUCH SPEED, EVEN YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!
OOOOOH
HE HE .. EH YEAH!
THE MANIPULATION OF THE JIZOS WAS ONLY A DIVERSION TECHNIQUE!


SO EVEN IF HELL AWAITS ME, I DECIDED THAT YOU SHALL ACCOMPANY ME, ASHURA!!!
MY ROLE IS TO LOOK AFTER THE GREAT MIROKOU UNTIL SHE BECOMES THE MESSENGER OF A NEW ERA! I DON'T FEAR DEATH!!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE!!
NO, I BEG YOU!! ... STOP!!
SEE YOU LATER PERHAPS .. IN THE LAND OF THE BUDDHAS.
NOW IT'S UP TO YOU, SENNJU...
JIZO OOO OOO OOO OOO !!!
NOOO !!!
GREAT MIROKOU, A SAYING GOES, "ALL THINGS OF THIS WORLD ARE FLEETING". THAT'S THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR WORLD... EVERYTHING MEETS DEATH SOME DAY, IN ORDER TO BECOME ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE ONCE AGAIN!
WE ALL HAVE TO UNDERGO THIS TRIAL NUMEROUS TIMES BEFORE JOINING UP WITH NIRVANA, A WORLD WHERE JOY AND WELL-BEING ARE TRUE!


CRAC
FAK
CRAC
FAK

BAAM

...
"EVERYTHING OF THIS WORLD IS FLEETING"?
GLING
HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT YOUR DEATH WOULD CREATE SOMETHING POSITIVE!!
FOOL!!
WHY DID YOU THAT FOR?!
PAF
SORRY ...
... BUT IN SPITE OF HIS SACRIFICE, HE COULDN'T DEFEAT ME!
WAAAH
WHO DID YOU SAVE BY ACTING THIS WAY?!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO THIS FAR?!!
JIZO, YOU IDIOT!!


...ASHURA?!
HOW COME YOU SUSTAINED SO LITTLE INJURIES FROM HIS ATTACK?!

BUT IT'S...
WHAT?! ... BUT ...
?!
HEH...
I WAS RATHER SURPRISED MYSELF.
BUT THANKS TO "THIS" I COULD PULL IT THROUGH!!
IF I HAD RECEIVED A DIRECT HIT, I WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE SURVIVED!
HÉHÉ
HE HE HE
I'M AFRAID SO!
YOUR BROTHER'S BODY WAS REALLY TOUGH.
HOW AWFUL
CRAC
ASHURA

WHAT'S THE SENSE OF NOT GETTING ANGRY NOW? YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR ANY MORE!
WHY ARE YOU HOLDING BACK?
HE HE
WELL?! YOU HATE ME NOW, RIGHT?!
AS YOU MUST SUFFER, ASHURA
EVENTUALLY LOATHING IS LOATHING!
AND I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING MORE POWERFUL THAN LOATHING!
HOW SAD YOU MUST HAVE BEEN!
NOW I UNDER-STAND AT LAST.

... HE'S CRYING ... ??

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
!

I SEE IT NOW! I'LL HAVE TO DESTROY ALL THE HATE AND SADNESS WITHIN YOUR HEART.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY I KNOW OF TO MAKE YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND IT ALL!
ZOA

Q: This is perhaps a serious issue for master Takei but I'm worried about little Satchi as well as for Anna's mom and dad. Can't you step in? Even a pretty comb would do.

R: You hit the bull's eye!! It's a lasting problem without a valid solution and I'm sorry about it. I had in mind to give a hair clip or a comb as a clue in order to allow Satchi to find her parents. They are rich and live in Hong Kong. Satchi had envied their way of life for a short while but finally chose the path of religious apprenticeship...

Ok, let's open up the Buddhic dictionary. It says that a human reincarnated as Buddha Mirokou has inevitably also parents (logic). Notwithstanding, there weren't any mentions made of any specific name. So from then on I chose Satchi. Her name is Satchi Saigann and it comes from a mangaka I like very much. That's how I decided on the same name for the high priest Saigann Ryohei. As for Anna she is tough. There is nothing to worry about her. I think she fully controls the situation. Sennju: "She is doing the right thing."

Q: And Grand Master Mara?

R: Oh. It's true that the meaning is not very plain either. To save face I had to come up with a little pirouette for the last part... but I'm still happy with my ending. Once I was aware of the closing date of the series, I had to fight till the end not because I had difficulties to finish in time but because I didn't know how to end this series.

Jizo: "I'll answer in his place since he is overwhelmed by his recollections. The so-called Grand priest Mara is a blithering villain! He has already dared everything to block the way of Grand Master Shakya. That's why once again he causes trouble in peoples heart. However we have to do everything in our power so he won't win! Our duty is to teach humans so they won't give in to his tricks of seduction. Put some energy into it, for heaven's sake! The name "Mara" comes from an ancient word meaning simply... human sex! It truly reflects desire in its most primal bestial form."

Q: Are Sennju and his friends wearing something beneath their monk robes?
Briefs? Boxer shorts perhaps? Or a "Fundoshi"? Then foremost... are they really boys?

R: I think they are wearing nothing beneath their robes. Sennju: "Yes, indeed!" Jizo: "You don't have to answer idiot!" According to the dictionary of Buddhism, the Buddhas can make their "dicks" appear or disappear as they please. Someday they have one and another day they haven't one any more. And if we keep this for decoration? Jizo: "And what do you intend to decorate?"

Q: Is Sennju's outfit a kind of short skirt?

R: Sennju: "Exactly! It's an outfit with fabulous lightness. Yes, it's very pleasant." Jizo: "I don't believe you..."

...
THIS POSITION!!
IT'S THE ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE OF THE BUDDHAS!! IT CONSISTS OF SUCKING THE ENERGY OF THE ASSAILANT IN ORDER TO STRIKE BACK WITH AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL ATTACK!... IT'S "RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY"!
LEAST OF ALL LOVE ME ...
HE HE... I SUSPECTED THIS, YOU KNOW..... YOU TOO CAN'T FORGIVE ME!

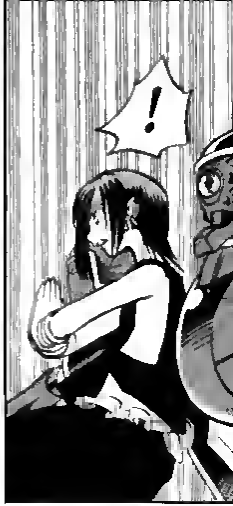
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT!!
IN THIS WORLD LOVE WILL NEVER SURPASS HATE!!
NOW THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS, NOTHING BINDS ME TO THIS OR ANY OTHER WORLD!!
I DON'T FEAR YOUR ONSLAUGHT "RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY"!!
FINISH ME OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL! BECAUSE I'LL ATTACK YOU WITH ALL MY ENERGY'S HATE!!
HE IS JUST RUSHING TOWARDS SENNJU!!
DID HE DECIDE ON DYING, TOO?!

LET'S GO!! THE ENERGY OF ALL MY CHAKRAS HAS REACHED ITS PEAK!!
ZANG
ATTACK OF "ASHURA'S DIVINE HANDS"!!

BUTSU 19 -
LAST CHAPTER : THE FUTURE

WHY DON'T YOU LAUNCH YOUR COUNTER ATTACK?!
ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS FOR A LONG TIME?!
EM?
GRRR
GHH
ZOH!
ZOH!
ZOH!
ZOH!
HE HE ... I'VE TOLD YOU ...
I'VE DECIDED TO FREE YOU ... FROM ALL HATE WITHIN YOU ...
GHHH ...
AHHH... NNN...
AHNN ...

YOU'LL ONLY USE "RIPOSTE OF CAUSALITY" TO SUCK ALL MY CHAKRAS FILLED WITH HATE!?
WHAT ?!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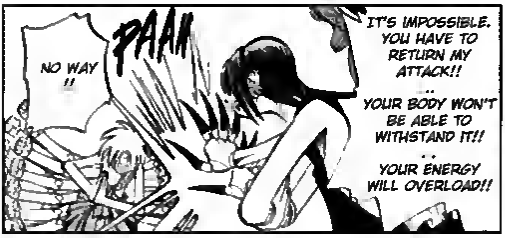

NO WAY !!
PAAH
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU HAVE TO RETURN MY ATTACK!!
..
YOUR BODY WON'T BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IT!!
..
YOUR ENERGY WILL OVERLOAD!!

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT?!
BUT... WHY?!

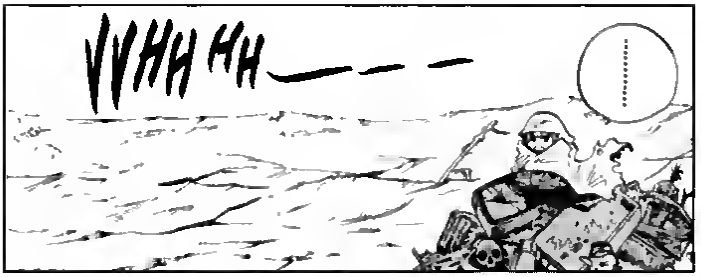
I'LL SUCK IN ALL YOUR HATE!! AND I'LL MAKE SURE THAT IT STAYS WITHIN ME!!

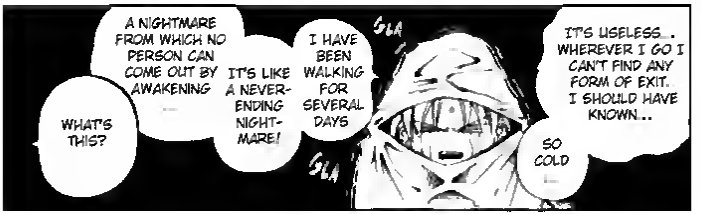
I PROMISED IT, DIDN'T I? I TOLD YOU I WOULD SAVE YOU.. AND DO YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE I'M SENNJU KANNON, THE ONE WHO VOWED TO SAVE ALL BEINGS WITHOUT EXCEPTION!

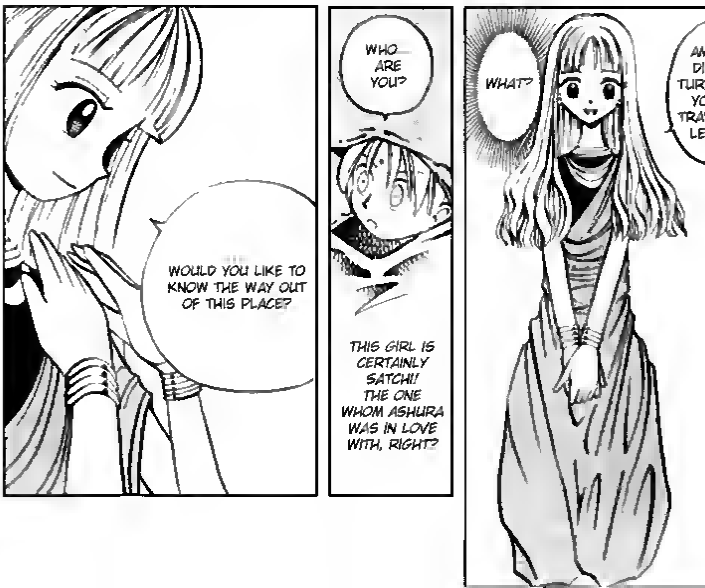
BECAUSE I SAW YOUR FACE FILLED WITH TENDERNESS WHEN THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE WORRIED YOU...
SENJUU !!
BLOOM
AH ...
!!
WHAT ?!
?!
I'D LOVE TO SEE THAT EXPRESSION AGAIN...
HE HE ...

SENNJU !!
SENNJU !!
SENNJU, NO !!
UH...?
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?!
WHAT DESOLATION ... WHAT SORROW ... IN THIS LANDSCAPE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?!
I SEE...

...
THAT I'M IN THE WORLD OF HATE EXISTING IN HIS HEART!
I WAS DROWNED IN ASHURA'S HATEFUL ENERGY AND I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT...
MEANING THEN...
WHAT A TERRIBLE PLACE...
IT'S SO COLD... BESIDES THERE ARE NO COLOURS WHEREVER I LOOK
I CAN'T STAY HERE... I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO FIND A WAY OUT!
OTHERWISE I'LL END UP FROZEN! THIS HEART OF ICE IS FILLED WITH SO MUCH HATE...
CAUTION
AH-CHOO!
HAS ASHURA ALWAYS LIVED IN THIS SAD WORLD ALL BY HIMSELF?


VVHH HH——
.....

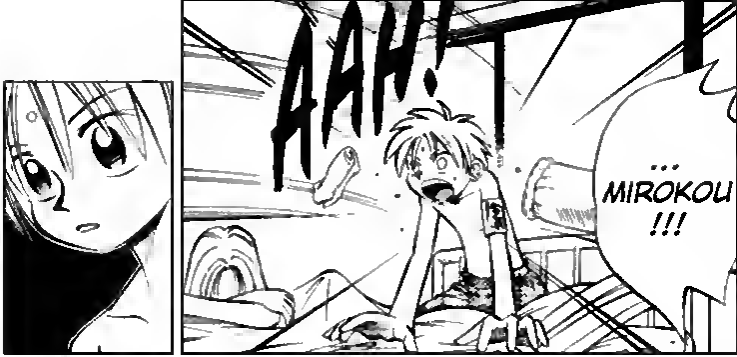

WHAT'S THIS?
A NIGHTMARE FROM WHICH NO PERSON CAN COME OUT BY AWAKENING
IT'S LIKE A NEVER-ENDING NIGHT-MARE!
I HAVE BEEN WALKING FOR SEVERAL DAYS
GLA
GLA
IT'S USELESS... WHEREVER I GO I CAN'T FIND ANY FORM OF EXIT. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN..
SO COLD

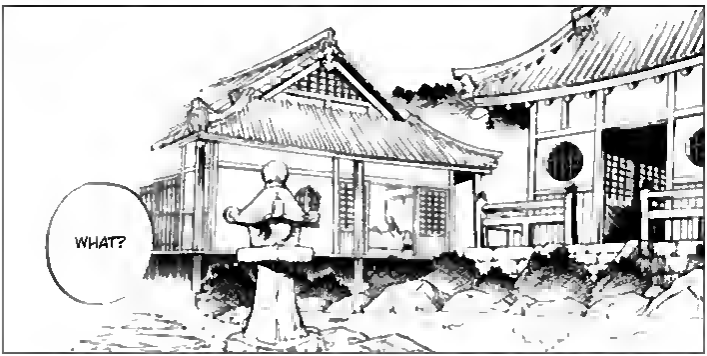

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE?
WHO ARE YOU?
THIS GIRL IS CERTAINLY SATCHI! THE ONE WHOM ASHURA WAS IN LOVE WITH, RIGHT?
WHAT?
AM I DIS-TURBING YOU, TRAVEL-LER?

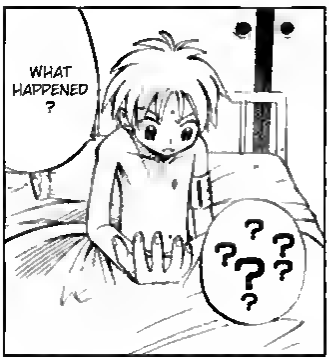
WHAT'S THIS?!
OO OU UH AA HH!!
... WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE ME?!
TELL ME
AH?!
DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH
BECAUSE OF YOU ... WE DIED ...
GRRR ...
MY FRIENDS...
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
IF THIS GOES ON, I'M GOING TO GO MAD!
NO, STOP!! I BEG YOU!!
AHH ...

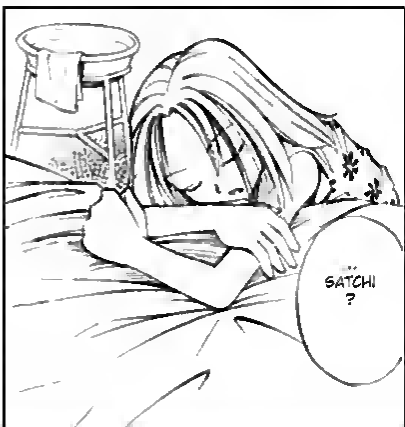
ALL OF THEM ARE LIVING WITHIN HIM AND ALL HIS LIFE HE WON'T BE ABLE TO NEITHER FORGIVE NOR ABSOLVE THEM
THEY ARE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF ASHURA'S CRIMES. THE ONE HE CREATED HIMSELF INSIDE HIS HEART
AND WHO ARE YOU?
BUT ALL THIS HATE AND SADNESS...
!!
ARE GOING TO BE PURIFIED NOW THANKS TO THE LIGHT I'LL SPREAD OUT HERE!

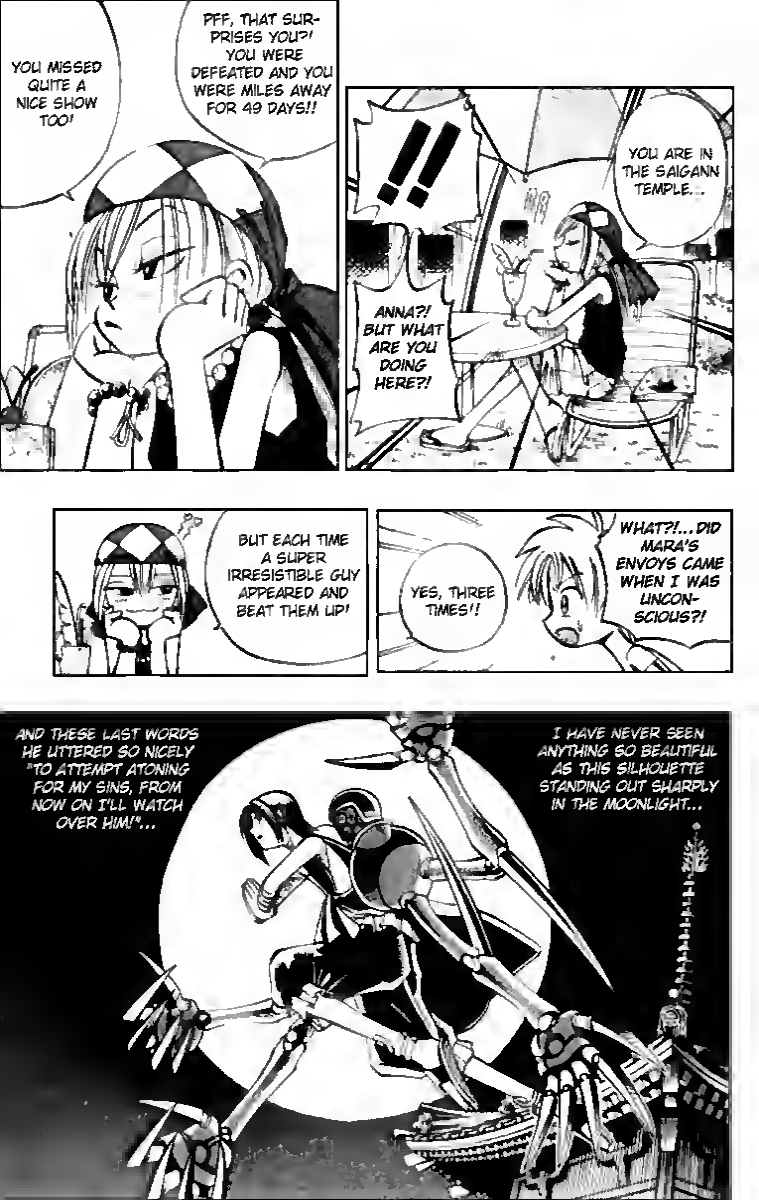
"PURIFICATION BY TRUE HOLINESS"!!
BUT... IT'S THE TECHNIQUE USED BY THE VENERATED SHAKYAMUNI AT THE TIME OF HIS AWAKENING!!
WHAT A LIGHT!
IT ENCIRCLES EVERYTHING! THIS WORLD OF DARKNESS WILL BE DESTROYED!
ONLY DAI-NICHI-NYORAI AND THE GRAND SHAKYA HIMSELF ARE ABLE TO EMIT SUCH A LIGHT...
BUT THEN THAT MEANS THAT THIS PERSON IS...


AAH!
... MIROKOU !!!

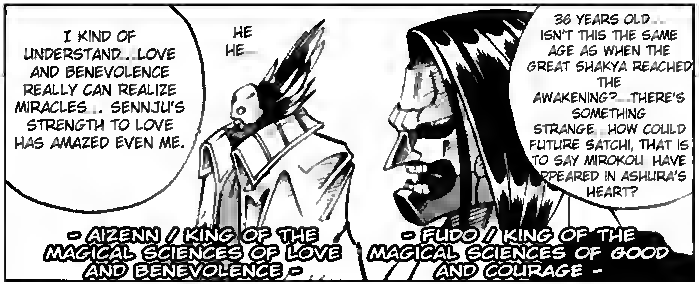

WHAT?

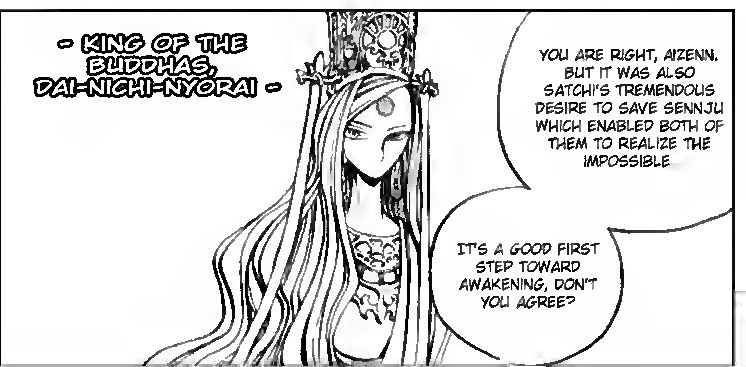

WHAT HAPPENED ?
? ? ? ? ?


... SATCHI ?


PFF, THAT SURPRISES YOU?! YOU WERE DEFEATED AND YOU WERE MILES AWAY FOR 49 DAYS!!
YOU MISSED QUITE A NICE SHOW TOO!
!!
YOU ARE IN THE SAIGANN TEMPLE...
ANNA?! BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
BUT EACH TIME A SUPER IRRESISTIBLE GUY APPEARED AND BEAT THEM UP!
YES, THREE TIMES!!
WHAT?!... DID MARA'S ENVOYS CAME WHEN I WAS UNCONSCIOUS?!
AND THESE LAST WORDS HE UTTERED SO NICELY "TO ATTEMPT ATONING FOR MY SINS, FROM NOW ON I'LL WATCH OVER HIM!"...
I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL AS THIS SILHOUETTE STANDING OUT SHARPLY IN THE MOONLIGHT...

SATCHI WILL BE 36 WHEN SHE IS GOING TO AWAKEN ON EARTH... IN 1999.
...THE TIME SHE IS TO BECOME MIROKOU.
WHAT BECOMES OF MANKIND DEPENDS ONLY ON THE WAY PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIFES.
-LAND OF THE BUDDHAS-

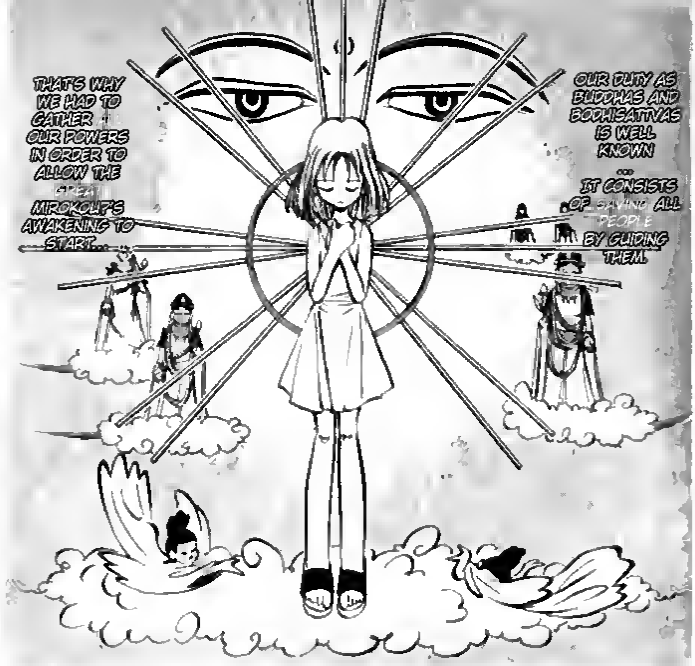

I KIND OF UNDERSTAND...LOVE AND BENEVOLENCE REALLY CAN REALIZE MIRACLES... SENNJU'S STRENGTH TO LOVE HAS AMAZED EVEN ME.
HE HE...
- AIZENN / KING OF THE MAGICAL SCIENCES OF LOVE AND BENEVOLENCE -
36 YEARS OLD... ISN'T THIS THE SAME AGE AS WHEN THE GREAT SHAKYA REACHED THE AWAKENING?...THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE...HOW COULD FUTURE SATCHI, THAT IS TO SAY MIROKOU, HAVE APPEARED IN ASHURA'S HEART?
- FUDO / KING OF THE MAGICAL SCIENCES OF GOOD AND COURAGE -

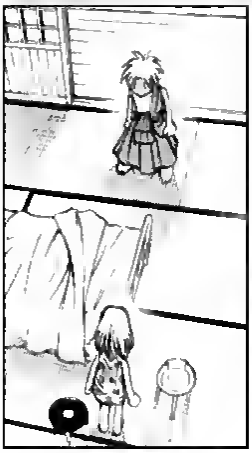

- KING OF THE BUDDHAS, DAI-NICHI-NYORAI -
YOU ARE RIGHT, AIZENN. BUT IT WAS ALSO SATCHI'S TREMENDOUS DESIRE TO SAVE SENNJU WHICH ENABLED BOTH OF THEM TO REALIZE THE IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S A GOOD FIRST STEP TOWARD AWAKENING, DON'T YOU AGREE?

AND ALSO YOU, THE SEVEN GODS OF JOY...
...YOU MUST BE REALLY TIRED.
BODHISATTVA JIZO, BODHISATTVA BATO KANNON...

CAN WE DO SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU?
PFF, I DIDN'T HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY!
HE HE! HONESTLY I DIDN'T THOUGHT WE WOULD BE SO EASILY FOOLED!
EH! TAKE IT EASY!
- THE 7 GODS OF JOY -

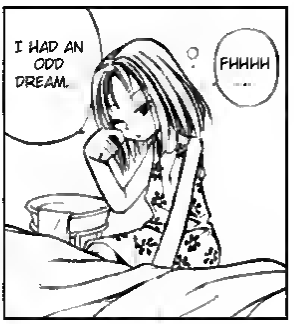
PFF, THE POWER OF LOVE GIVES ME BACK MY JOY OF LIFE!
DON'T WORRY, GREAT DAI-NICHI-NYO RAI.
- BATO EMISSARY OF KANNON -
- BODHI-SATT VA JIZO PROTECTOR OF CHILDREN AND VOYAGERS -
OUAF
- KOMA, A STONE DOG -


THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO GATHER OUR POWERS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE
MIROKU'S AWAKENING TO START...
OUR DUTY AS BUDDHAS AND BODHISATTVAS IS WELL KNOWN
...
IT CONSISTS OF
BY GUIDING THEM.



...AAH !
WHERE DID SENNJU GO?!

EM..?

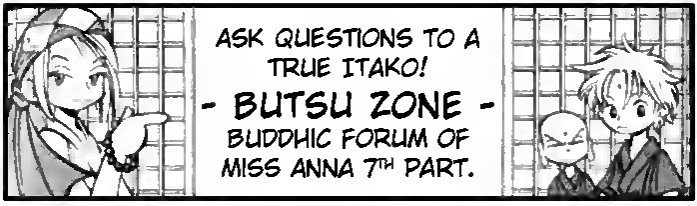

I HAD AN ODD DREAM.
FHHHH...

ALL THIS HAPPENED IN 1975 AT THAT TIME SATCHI WAS ONLY 12 YEARS OLD...

AND SHE'LL BE 36 IN 1999 WHEN SHE REALLY AWAKENS. BUT UNTIL THAT TIME COMES ALL OUR FRIENDS

...WILL CONTINUE THE JOURNEY!!

END OF VOLUME 3
"THE ULTIMATE BATTLE"



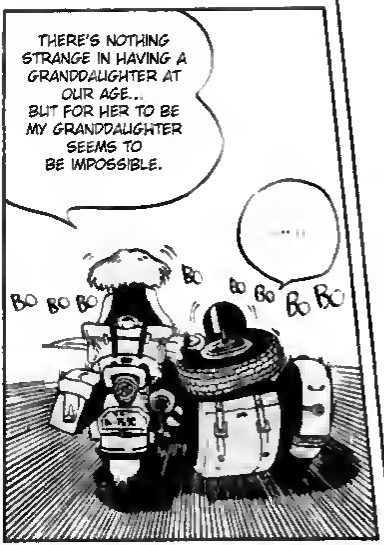
Q: Could you tell me, even if I personally don't care, what's the fate of the Minoura Group?
R: Same as for Shakyamuni and his 10 disciples. They should have gathered around Satchi as bodyguards. But I couldn't provide them their roles because too many people would have had to fit in I love Mike Minoura s group!

Q: Is there a star player in the Tennis matches between Buddhas?
R: Aizenn Sugiyama! Just a thought. But after all pay no attention to it. Sennju: "Alright, let's go back to Master Takei!"

Q: I was so happy to read those striking news about volume 3 which were announced at the end of volume 2 that I pranced around in my room. When I thought about the suspense to come, my heart was racing.
R: err... how do I say it ....actually I was only given little room to finish. Now I shouldn't tell tall stories... sorry! I did what I could! Jizo: "You really are irresponsible."

Q: There were around 5 unknown people in the last part, drawn from behind. Could you draw them from the front today?! I want to know their identity!
R: It was only to have a panoramic view of the Buddhas at the end of the story. So picture them in your mind as you like. Sennju: "No matter how hard we try to concentrate, they are not very clear-cut." Of course I'm myself, a bit of a shady person! Jizo: "You really are the most irresponsible person in existence!" Habits are habits after all and hard to loose. I won't change my ways!!
Sennju: "Ah, Anna is coming back to us!" Jizo: "Holy cow, we should have harassed her some more." Anna: pff... you really are good-for-nothing. Eh, who of you two has drunk my tea?!? While I'm at it I could as well talk about my début. I was rather shy at that time. But nevertheless please read my nice story!"

"Anna, the Itako"
By Hiroyuki Takei
Special Unpublished story of end of volume
48th Tezuka prize for the loveliest story


THERE'S NOTHING STRANGE IN HAVING A GRANDDAUGHTER AT OUR AGE..
BUT FOR HER TO BE MY GRANDDAUGHTER SEEMS TO BE IMPOSSIBLE.
... !!
BO BO BO
BO
BO BO
BO BO

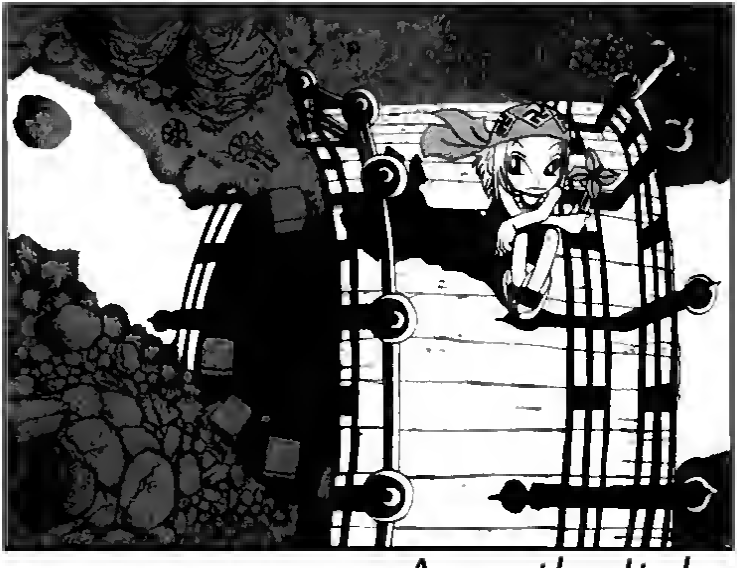
THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES ..
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU AND I ON A MOTORBIKE AGAIN, LIKE WE ARE DOING NOW
LIKE 50 YEARS AGO...

IT'S TRUE, ALFRED.. BECAUSE YOU UNFORTUNATELY DIED A LONG TIME AGO. . DURING THE WAR.

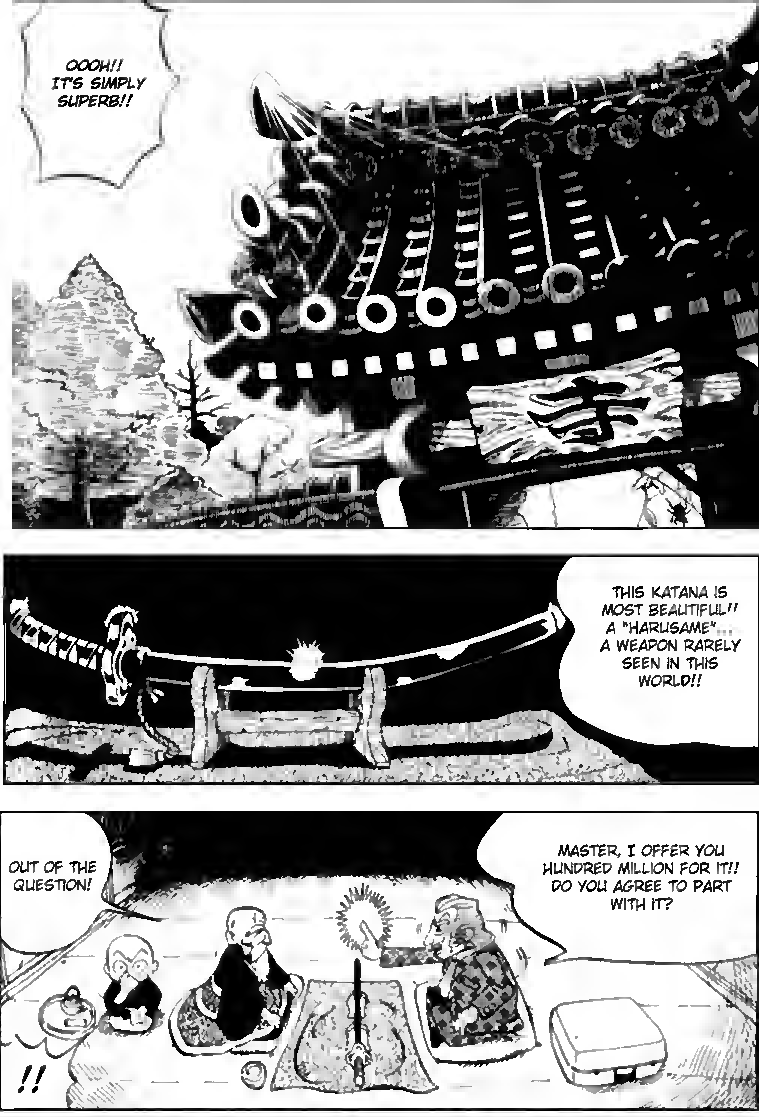
YES ... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! I'M REALLY DEAD!!

THE ANSWER IS THIS LITTLE GIRL!
BOBOBO BO
SO HOW COME I'M HERE WITH YOU?!
ANNA KYOYAMA (13 YEARS OLD)!!
...
HERE IS MY INCREDIBLE GRANDDAUGHTER!!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT
I UNDERSTAND.
東京↑ 30...
大山↑ 3...
I REPEAT.. SHE IS REALLY OUR GRAND-DAUGHTER!

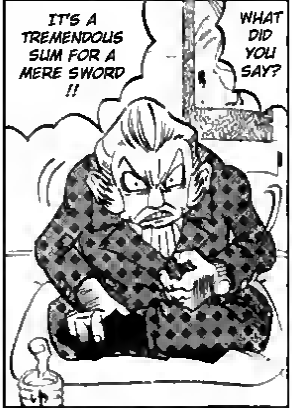
A special story...



Anna the Itako


OOOH!! IT'S SIMPLY SUPERB!!
THIS KATANA IS MOST BEAUTIFUL!! A "HARUSAME"... A WEAPON RARELY SEEN IN THIS WORLD!!
OUT OF THE QUESTION!
!!
MASTER, I OFFER YOU HUNDRED MILLION FOR IT!! DO YOU AGREE TO PART WITH IT?

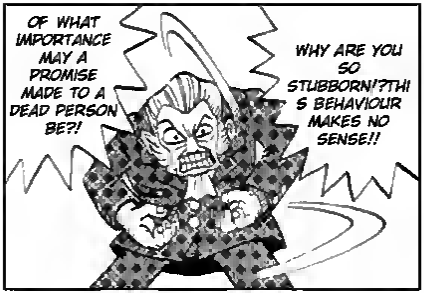
DAISHI JIKAKU
(99 YEARS OLD)
A PIGHEADED OLD FOOL

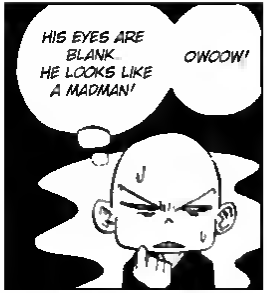


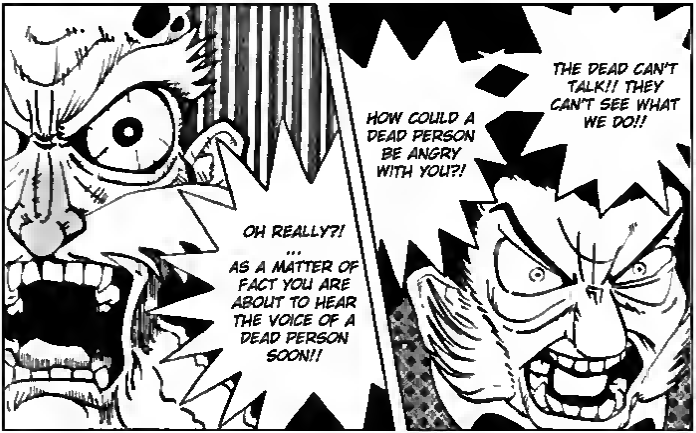
RENKYU (13 YEARS OLD)
A LITTLE BUDDHIC MONK,
FAR FROM BEING STUPID

CHUZO KANENAGA (55 YEARS OLD)
AN OLD MAN WHO IS
VERY FOND OF KATANAS

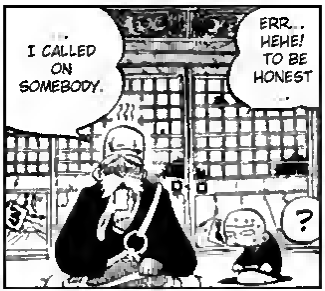
A LONG TIME AGO I MADE A PROMISE TO ITS OWNER, A FAMOUS SAMURAI TO KEEP IT ALWAYS
A PROMISE MADE TO A DEAD PERSON IS SACRED AND I CAN'T BREAK IT!


OF WHAT IMPORTANCE MAY A PROMISE MADE TO A DEAD PERSON BE?!
WHY ARE YOU SO STUBBORN!?THIS BEHAVIOUR MAKES NO SENSE!!

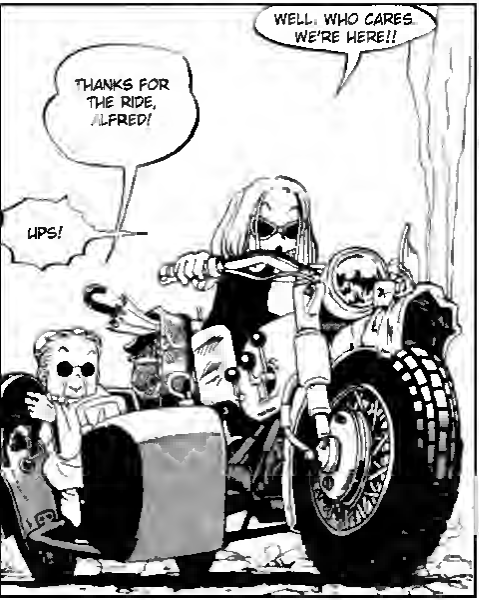

HIS EYES ARE BLANK... HE LOOKS LIKE A MADMAN!
OWOOW!


OH REALLY?! ... AS A MATTER OF FACT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR THE VOICE OF A DEAD PERSON SOON!!
HOW COULD A DEAD PERSON BE ANGRY WITH YOU?!
THE DEAD CAN'T TALK!! THEY CAN'T SEE WHAT WE DO!!

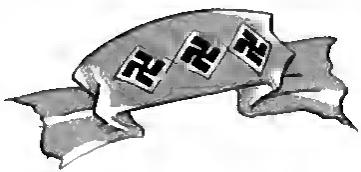
TO HEAR A DEAD PERSON'S VOICE?! ...WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?!

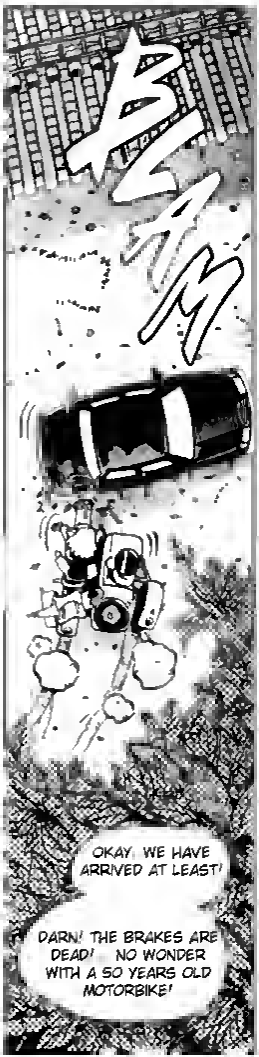

... I CALLED ON SOMEBODY.
ERR... HEHE! TO BE HONEST ...
?

EH?


WELL, WHO CARES. WE'RE HERE!!
THANKS FOR THE RIDE, ALFRED!
UPS!

SAY HELLO TO ANNA FOR ME!



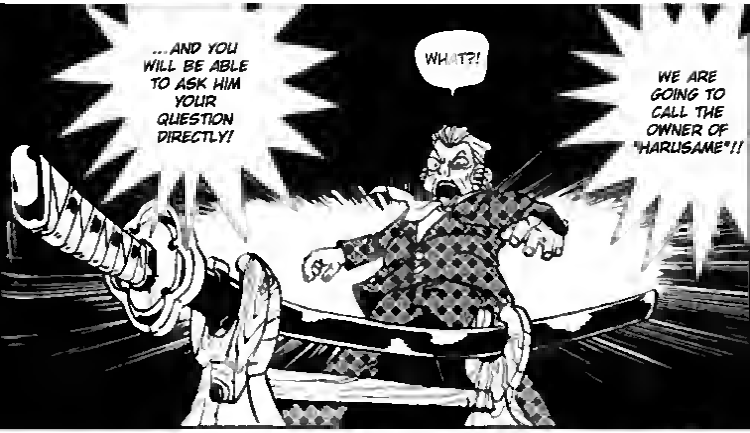

BAM
OKAY, WE HAVE ARRIVED AT LEAST!
DARN! THE BRAKES ARE DEAD! NO WONDER WITH A 50 YEARS OLD MOTORBIKE!

I'M 72 YEARS OLD.
YES.

AN ITAKO?!

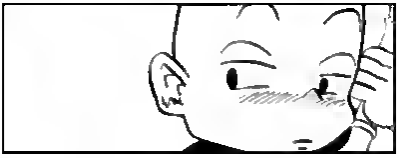
IT'S EASY ...
EXACTLY! YOU ALREADY UNDERSTOOD ME... THAT IS, IF I'M CORRECT!

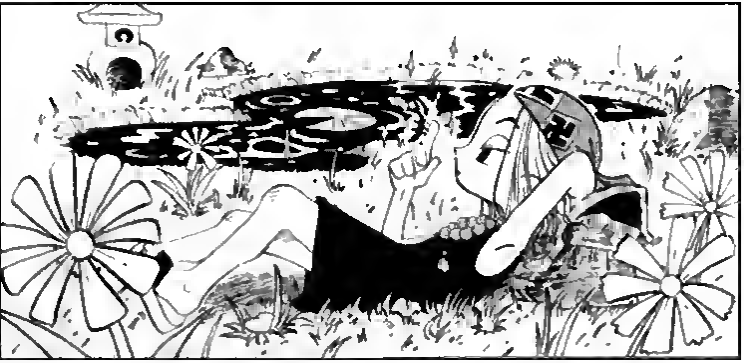
BUT THEN...

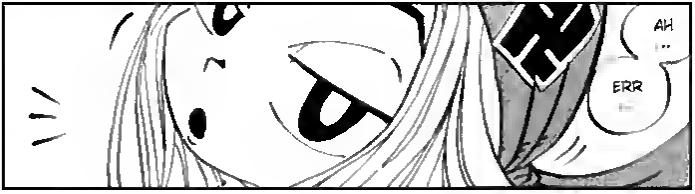

...AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ASK HIM YOUR QUESTION DIRECTLY!
WHAT?!
WE ARE GOING TO CALL THE OWNER OF "HARUSAME"!!

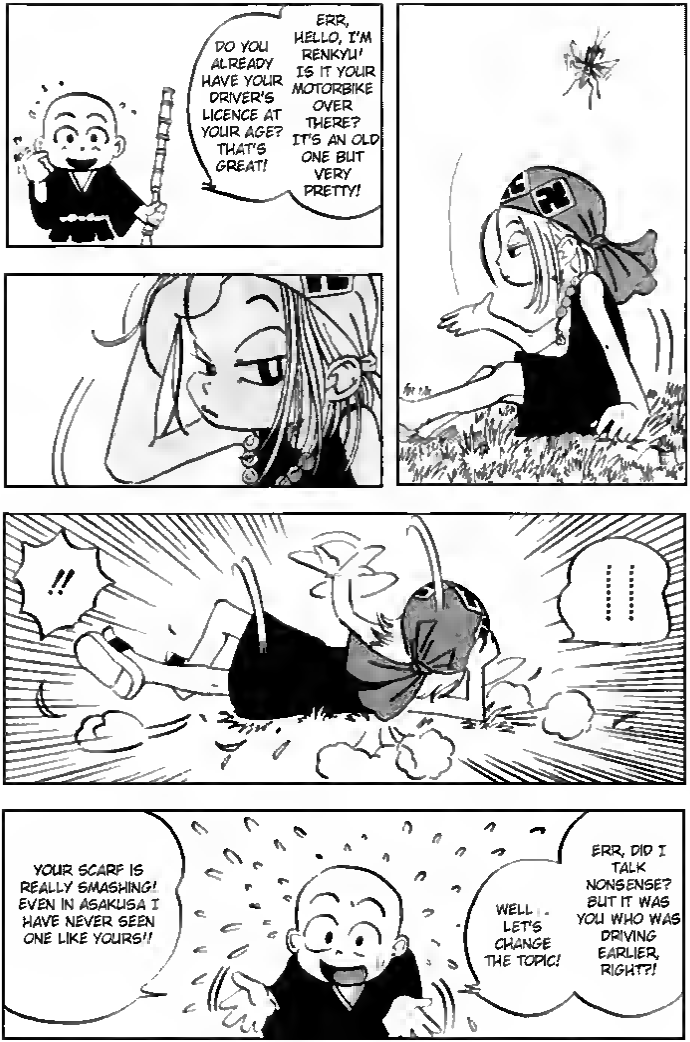
AN ITAKO ..?
COME ON ...
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO BELIEVE IT?!

HEH ...





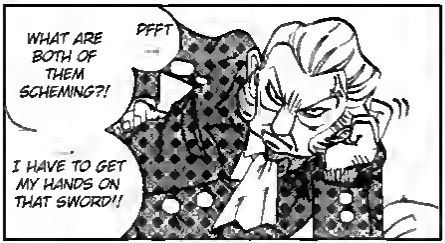

AH ...
ERR ...


ERR, HELLO, I'M RENKYU! IS IT YOUR MOTORBIKE OVER THERE? IT'S AN OLD ONE BUT VERY PRETTY!
DO YOU ALREADY HAVE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE AT YOUR AGE? THAT'S GREAT!
!!
.....
ERR, DID I TALK NONSENSE? BUT IT WAS YOU WHO WAS DRIVING EARLIER, RIGHT?!
WELL.. LET'S CHANGE THE TOPIC!
YOUR SCARF IS REALLY SMASHING! EVEN IN ASAKUSA I HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE YOURS!!

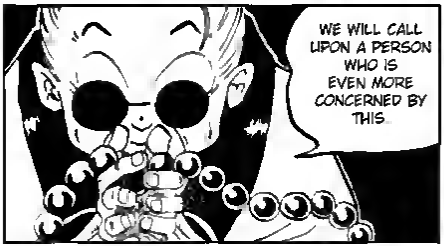
WUAAAH !!
EH ...
SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO TALK!!
WHEW
BHH...
WU AAA AAA AH HH !!
IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S GOING TO...
I NEVER THOUGHT SOMEONE COULD DRIVE A MOTORBIKE WHILE BEING SICK...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
...BUT THERE WAS ACTUALLY AN EXPLANATION.

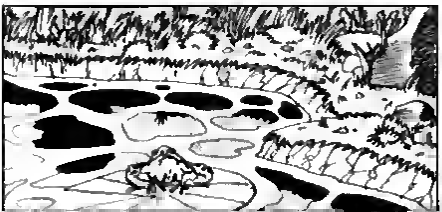
...
THIS MAN COULD BE TOO DANGEROUS.
WE ARE NOT GOING TO CALL THE OWNER OF THIS KATANA.

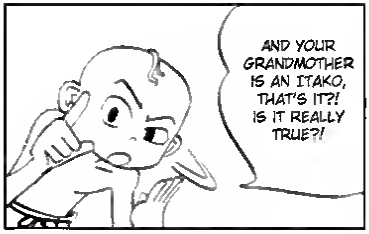
OKAY. LET'S START.


WHAT ARE BOTH OF THEM SCHEMING?!
PFFT
I HAVE TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT SWORD!!

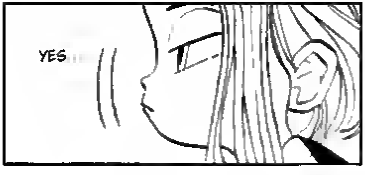
EH, OLD MAN! IT SEEMS YOU SAID TOO MUCH!... I'M WARNING YOU. I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUCH RUBBISH!
HMMM ...
....

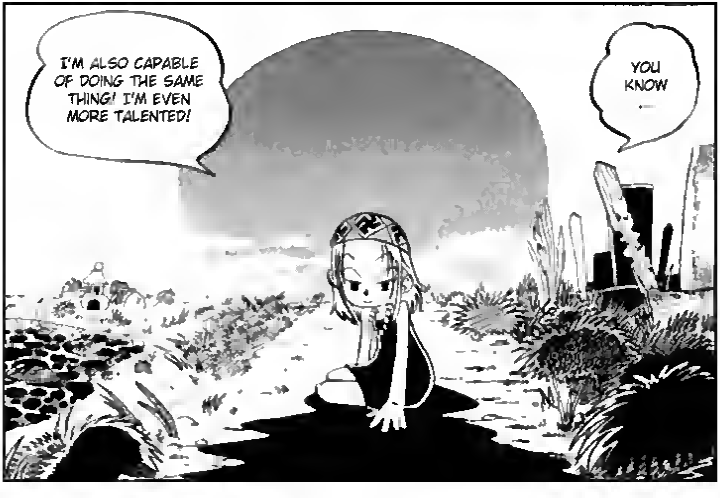

WE WILL CALL UPON A PERSON WHO IS EVEN MORE CONCERNED BY THIS.



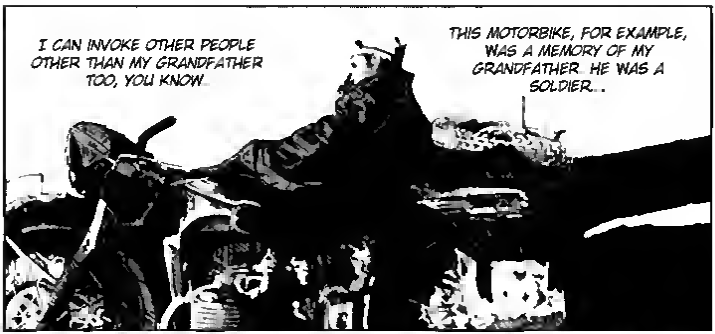

AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS AN ITAKO, THAT'S IT?! IS IT REALLY TRUE?!

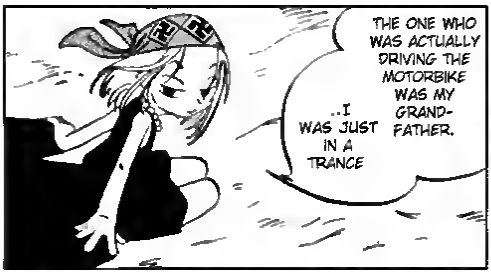
HUH?
TELL ME... YOUR NAME IS ANNA, RIGHT?
PUFF


YES...

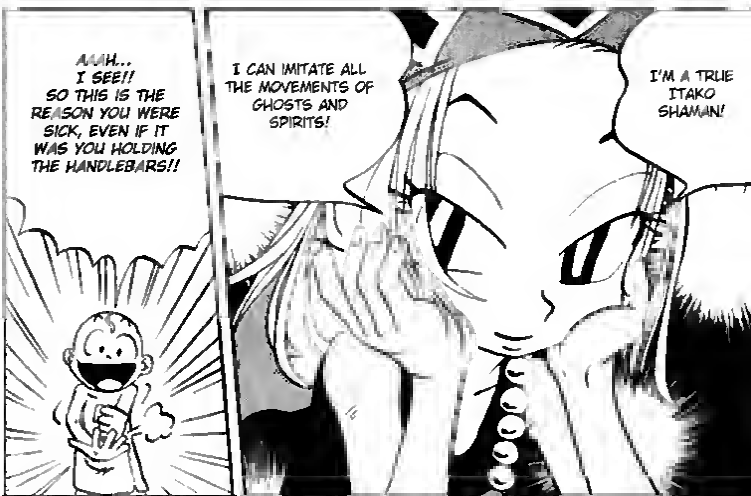

I'M ALSO CAPABLE OF DOING THE SAME THING! I'M EVEN MORE TALENTED!
YOU KNOW...

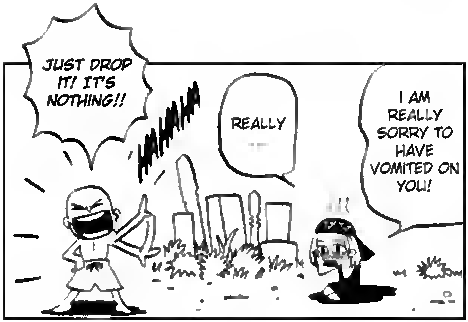
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?

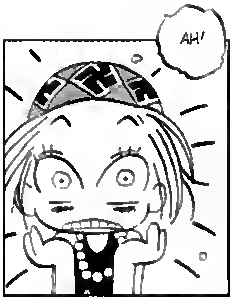

I CAN INVOKE OTHER PEOPLE OTHER THAN MY GRANDFATHER TOO, YOU KNOW.
THIS MOTORBIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS A MEMORY OF MY GRANDFATHER. HE WAS A SOLDIER...

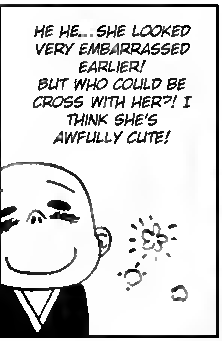

THE ONE WHO WAS ACTUALLY DRIVING THE MOTORBIKE WAS MY GRAND-FATHER.
...I WAS JUST IN A TRANCE

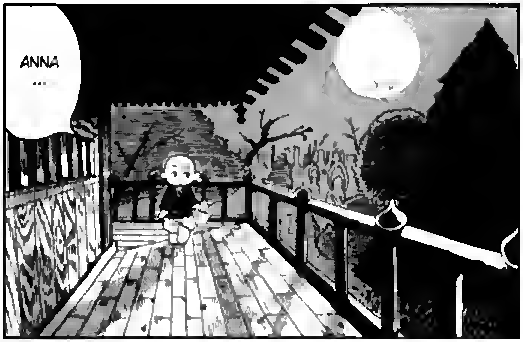
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?

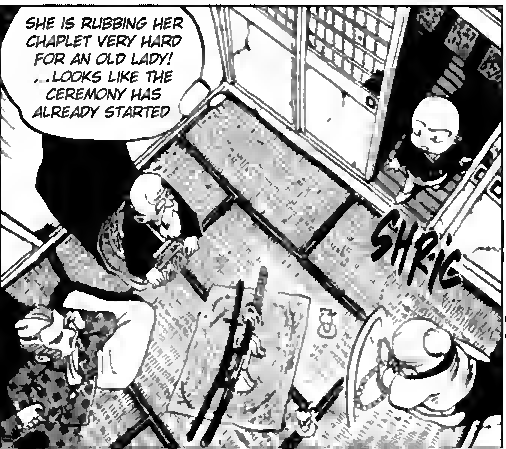

AAAH... I SEE!! SO THIS IS THE REASON YOU WERE SICK, EVEN IF IT WAS YOU HOLDING THE HANDLEBARS!!
I CAN IMITATE ALL THE MOVEMENTS OF GHOSTS AND SPIRITS!
I'M A TRUE ITAKO SHAMAN!


JUST DROP IT! IT'S NOTHING!!
HAHAHAHAHA
REALLY
I AM REALLY SORRY TO HAVE VOMITED ON YOU!


AH!


HE HE... SHE LOOKED VERY EMBARRASSED EARLIER!
BUT WHO COULD BE CROSS WITH HER?! I THINK SHE'S AWFULLY CUTE!

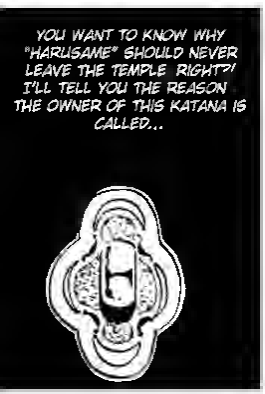

ANNA ...


SHE IS RUBBING HER CHAPLET VERY HARD FOR AN OLD LADY!
...LOOKS LIKE THE CEREMONY HAS ALREADY STARTED
SHRIG

SHRIG
SHRIG
SHRIG
SHRIG
WUAAH!!
SHRIG

!!!

...OH!
!
SEEMS LIKE I ARRIVED ON TIME!


YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY "HARUSAME" SHOULD NEVER LEAVE THE TEMPLE RIGHT?! I'LL TELL YOU THE REASON THE OWNER OF THIS KATANA IS CALLED...

OUCH

I'M ONATSU.
I WAS BORN AND RAISED RIGHT HERE LONG TIME AGO

...
TOJIRO
!!
HA HAAA! EVEN YOU CANT WIN AGAINST SO MANY OPPONENTS AT THE SAME TIME!! ...EH?!
TODAY YOU ARE GOING TO BE DEFEATED!!
INTERESTING ...
HE HE
HE WAS EXTREMELY VIOLENT AND NEVER DID HE PART WITH "HARUSAME"..
HE ACTUALLY TRIED TO PICK A QUARREL WITH WHOEVER CROSSED HIS PATH...
PFF!
TCHAC
YOU ARE ALL LOSERS!

ERR... ERR...
BUT ONE DAY HE FELL MADLY IN LOVE
!?
WHAT?
I HUMBLY BEG YOU TO BECOME MY WIFE!
... MY NAME IS TOJIRO. MISS ONATSU!!
IT'S ONLY... THAT I WAS RAISED IN THE TEMPLE AND I WAS TAUGHT THAT LIFE IS PRECIOUS.
!!
SORRY. BUT... AS LONG AS YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE KILLING PEOPLE WITH THIS KATANA, I'LL REFUSE

HE PROMISED WITHOUT REALLY THINKING ABOUT IT SINCE HE WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH ONATSU BUT HE ALSO WAS A MAN OF HONOUR AND VOWED TO KEEP HIS PROMISE
REALLY ?
SO I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL NEVER UNSHEATHE THIS SWORD AGAIN!
YES!!
HURRAY!!
IF I PROMISE YOU NEVER TO KILL ANYONE AGAIN, WILL YOU ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL?!
I PROMISE YOU SO.
I WISH FOR IT TO REST NEXT TO ONATSU FOREVER
HARUS, ME AND ME ARE ONE...
IF SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME...

YOUNGEST SON: KOTETSU (18 YEARS OLD), 10TH DAN
3RD SON MURASAME (19 YEARS OLD), 11TH DAN
2ND SON: MURAMASA (20 YEARS OLD), 12TH DAN
ELDEST SON: MASAMUNE (21 YEARS OLD), 13TH DAN

YES, IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T WANT TO DIE, BUT... HE MADE A PROMISE TO ONATSU! AS BUDDHIC MONK OF THIS TEMPLE I HAVE TO RESPECT IT!!
BO BOM
YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU?
COME NOW, LITTLE ONE HAND OVER HARUSAME!
..
WHAT? HE REALLY INTENDS TO KILL US?!
HE IS RUNNING !?
EH?!
PAK
WUAAAAAAH!! I WILL NEVER GIVE IT TO YOUUUUUU!!
!!!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE !!
GET HIM!!
DOH DOH DOH DOH

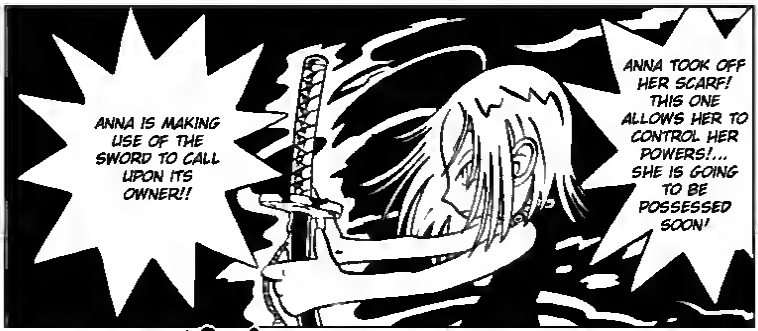
WHO IS THIS CHILD?!
....
LOOK!!
....
SHE'S HOLDING THE HARUSAME!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ANNA?! HURRY AND SAVE YOURSELF!!
墓

THIS KATANA SEEMS TO BE VERY ANGRY!! IT TOLD ME IT WANTED TO KILL YOU ALL!
ANNA, STOP TALKING NONSENSE!
...
BUZZ OFF BEFORE THEY GET YOU!!
I THINK YOU BETTER APOLOGIZE AND LEAVE THE TEMPLE!
WUAHAHAHAHAAA!! FOOLISH LITTLE GIRL!... YOU WANT TO KILL US?! SO GO AHEAD. TRY IT!!
...
MY SONS ARE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!!
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LET HER SACRIFICE HERSELF, ARE YOU?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
NO! IT'S USELESS!
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM! THEY ARE ABOUT TO HURT YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER!

FLAP
..WHAT?!

ON THE CONTRARY, I FEEL THAT THE SWORD'S OWNER WILL AWAKEN SOON.
NO .....

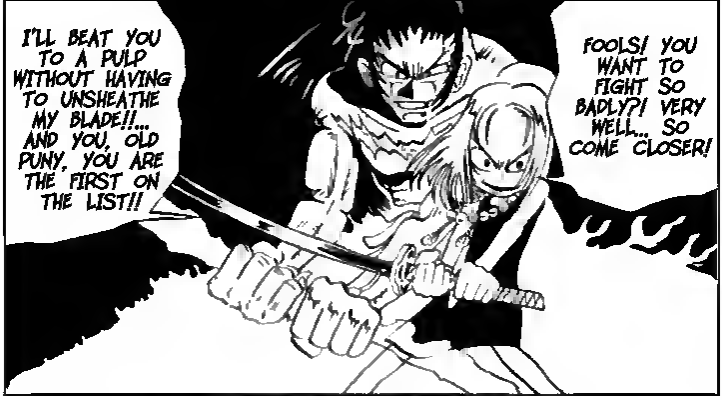

ANNA IS MAKING USE OF THE SWORD TO CALL UPON ITS OWNER!!
ANNA TOOK OFF HER SCARF! THIS ONE ALLOWS HER TO CONTROL HER POWERS!... SHE IS GOING TO BE POSSESSED SOON!

!!!!
DOH
ATTACK!!!!
THEN, SHE'LL INVITE THE SOUL OF THE GHOST TO ENTER HER OWN BODY!!
DOH
DOH
DOH
DOH

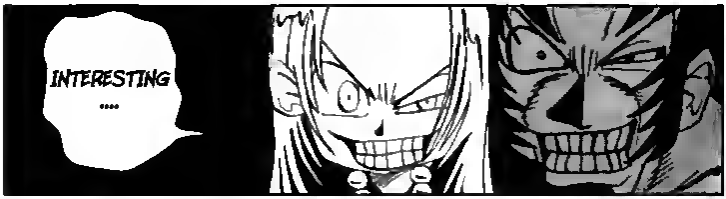
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY SPECIAL COUNTER ATTACK?!!
WUA AH!
PAF!
ARRGH!
THERE IT IS!

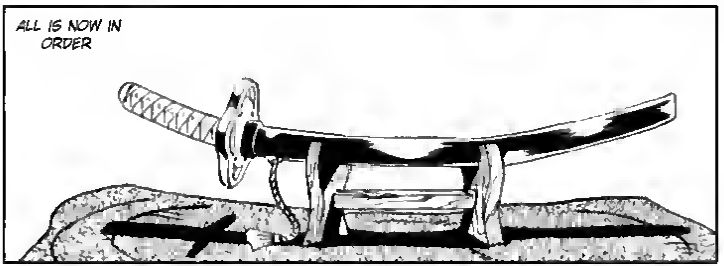
.....
ANNA HAS "BECOME" THE PHANTOM WHO TOOK POSSESSION OF HER BODY!!

AND EVEN BE THE DAUGHTER OF... "LITTLE DRAGON"!!
AND IF SHE CALLS UPON THAT CHAMPION SHE'LL BE ABLE TO DRIVE A RACING CAR!!
SO...IT W_S TRUE WHAT SHE SAID!?
BY CALLING UPON THIS M_N SHE'LL BECOME A GENIUS MANGAKA
THAT'S TOTALLY GREAT !!
SHE COULD BE AN AVIATOR!

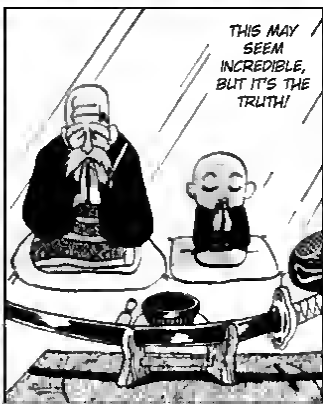

I'LL BEAT YOU TO A PULP WITHOUT HAVING TO UNSHEATHE MY BLADE!!... AND YOU, OLD PUNY, YOU ARE THE FIRST ON THE LIST!!
FOOLS! YOU WANT TO FIGHT SO BADLY?! VERY WELL... SO COME CLOSER!

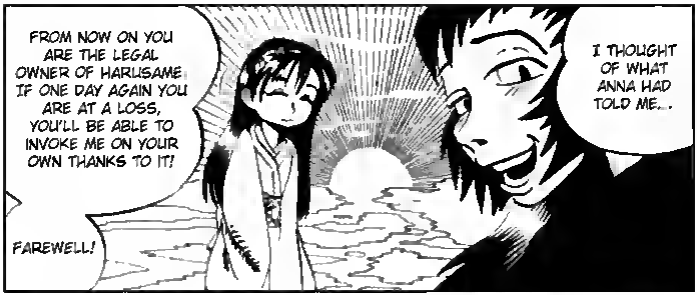
NO... HER WAY OF USING THE KATANA... WAS NOT A STROKE OF LUCK!
YOU WERE LUCKY A WHILE AGO!!... BUT MASAMUNE WILL MAKE YOU REGRET THAT YOU CHALLENGED US!!
SHUT UP!!
GET HER, MY SONS!!


INTERESTING ....

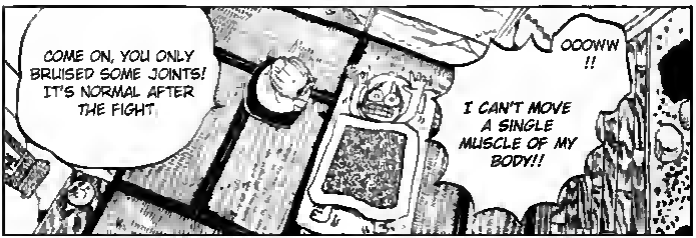

ALL IS NOW IN ORDER

THE OLD COLLECTOR TOLD US "FORGET ABOUT ME AND THAT I EVER SET FOOT IN THIS PLACE". HE RUSHED AWAY! AS FOR TOJIRO, HE SAID...
IT HURTS ...
OUCH...
VROOM

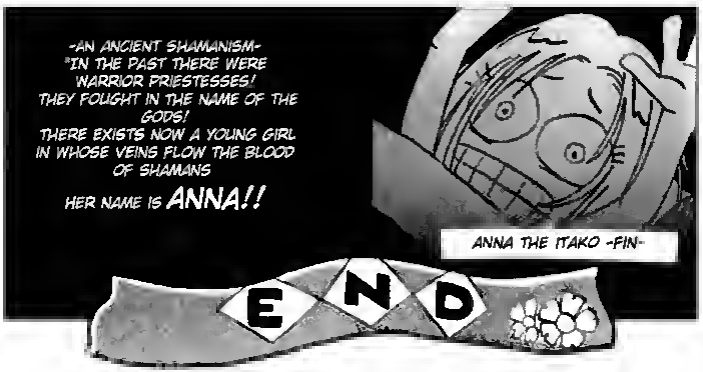

THIS MAY SEEM INCREDIBLE, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH!


FROM NOW ON YOU ARE THE LEGAL OWNER OF HARUSAME. IF ONE DAY AGAIN YOU ARE AT A LOSS, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INVOKE ME ON YOUR OWN THANKS TO IT!
FAREWELL!
I THOUGHT OF WHAT ANNA HAD TOLD ME...

MY GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME THAT SINCE THIS TIME HE AND ONATSU HAD TO LEAVE FOR ONE OF THE NUMEROUS BUDDHIC PARADISES . . .



THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S NO BED OF ROSES TO BE ABLE TO EMBODY THE DEAD! ONCE I'M IN TRANCE, I CANNOT ALWAYS KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ME!... WHO COULD GUESS THAT I HAVE SUCH AN INCREDIBLE POWER WHEN YOU SEE MY SO CUTE FACE?!


-AN ANCIENT SHAMANISM-
"IN THE PAST THERE WERE WARRIOR PRIESTESSES! THEY FOUGHT IN THE NAME OF THE GODS!
THERE EXISTS NOW A YOUNG GIRL IN WHOSE VEINS FLOW THE BLOOD OF SHAMANS
HER NAME IS ANNA!!
ANNA THE ITAKO -FIN-
E N D

SHAMANIC PRINCESS

-SHAMANIC PRINCESS-

-Comment on the work

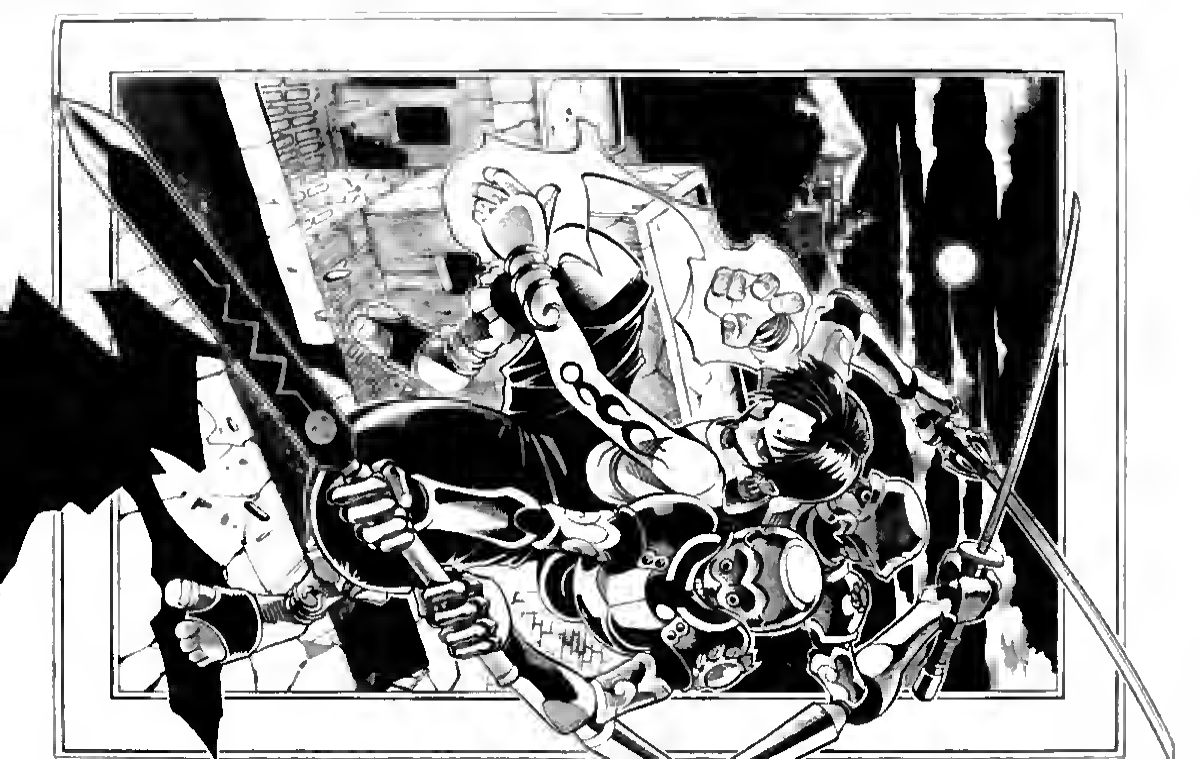
It was in 1994 Summer was torrid I was drawing what is called "mangas" and I was 22 years old This short story is the second complete story, entirely of my own invention It received, to my greatest joy, the Tezuka prize 94 of the most beautiful story I was all the more happy to receive this prize because at that time master Tezuka reached the peak in my estimation and also in society through the success he had with all generations So I had the opportunity to write some stories for the JUMP Magazine Have you noticed how my graphic style was already very nice? My scripts also had already a successful conclusion!...

Sorry to repeat myself but it's the only weapon I possess to defend my interests! Actually I remember the hard times where I cried because of my lack of imagination I even thought to stop everything cause most of my main characters didn't match at all with the style of JUMP (a boy's magazine). However I even succeeded in making an appearance there, if I could say so Cast of all, Anna is more and more successful thanks to my efforts and I hope with all my heart that you'll be able to see her again very soon... so be patient!!

KYOYAMA Anna (13)
Born on the 22th of July
under the sign of Cancer
Blood Type=B
What she likes most : herself
What she dislikes most : the
world surrounding her
ANNA!

Special Extra
A view of the world of the Buddhas.

The Buddha Mirokou
Bodhisattva Jizo
Bodhisattva Fugenn
servant of Shakyamuni
Shakyamuni Nyorai
the one known under the name of Buddha
Bodhisattva Monju
from the impact of Ideas flashes light
HERE IS A LITTLE PRESENTATION OF A PART OF THE WORLD OF THE BUDDHAS! ...FOR NOW ALL THE REST IS OUT OF YOUR REACH!
The White Elephant
The Lion
Juntei Kannon
Sennju Kannon
Sho Kannon
The 28 acolytes (The 8 dragons of Heavens are included)
THE 28 ACOLYTES ARE FROM SENNJU'S FAMILY AND WERE ORIGINALLY THE "DEMON GODS" OF INDIA.
The Hermit
King of the Buddhas
Dai-Nichi-Nyorai
Aizenn
Fudo
Tohomyo Kikokouyakushi with Bodhisattva Nikko
The 12 divine generals
Tohomyo Kikikou
Land of Toho Joruri
Amida Nyoirai
The bodyguards protecting Dai-Nichi-Nyorai The 5 Great Protector Kings
Nyoirin Kannon
Juichimen Kannon
Bato Kannon
Seishi Kannon
The right-hand man of Amida
Will you go to this World one day? Seiho-Gokuraku Jodo is the paradise we are talking about!!
Amida
Seishi
Sho Kannon
The Boss of Sennju and the other Kannons!!
Sennju
Nyoirin
Bato
Juntei
Juichimen
The 6 Kannon
The 28 acolytes
Seiho-Gokuraku Jodo



Word from the Author:

The Shitenn-no, Godaimyo-o, Rokkannon and Junishinsho! What incredible names, worthy of appearing in the best pages of JUMP! Butsu Zone,this manga I just finished, is one of the stories I'm the most proud of. First of all a big thank you for having read the story . However I really had a hard time since I'm neither a specialist for Religion nor a Buddhist. To get onto a topic so complicated generates many interesting situations, but I had to work hard for this. Then there were so many nice things to narrate that I didn't know which anecdotes I should use. I had to find the best way to communicate to my readers the charm of this world, and for a young mangaka like me, it was hard labour and in addition a serious problem arose: changing the course of the story just before its launching!! Eventually I had to start this series in 19 episodes even before I could set the storyline in order. I was completely lost (forgive me!). Despite all those events, I'm deeply grateful to you all for having appreciated this piece of work still way (I still think so) immature. Thanks to you and to all Buddhas of this universe!

I'm very glad about all those fan letters and the people collecting signatures petitions related to me (it seems a group even collected over 1000!). However many problems exits because of my lack of rigour and it pains me. At last I think I did what needed to be done. The theme about the Buddhas had been, by a narrow margin, of great help. I didn't try to send out a message though but I think this was already enough. The only thing I regret is that i have not been up to the task of depicting the Buddhas of the first world. I am a little bit off topic but I'm keen on letting you know: that I have no real message to convey any more: Buddhism is a philosophy that help us living in "beatitude" (true happiness). And to sum it up I would say that this happiness "resides in our heart". No need to say more in order to understand! But for those who wish to know in all seriousness the fate of all those characters I put on stage, I apologize for not being able to entirely satisfy you. I'm very touched by the depth of your feelings... but let's think about the future when earth is going to die down and the Buddhas power could be useful to us. The "Butsu Zone" will then make an appearance in this lower world and will maybe know at last absolute truth. Well, I went perhaps a bit too far, but I would be happy if you could appreciate all those Buddhas who are near us (beware not to get yourself too much involved. Know how to grade your passions!). Think of them when you are about to face an obstacle and don't lose hope. This will help you for sure. Yeah, now let's join hands to pray and express all our gratefulness!

Hiroyuki Takei